



Dark clouds hang over Palais Coburg where closed-door nuclear talks with Iran take place in Vienna, Austria, Thursday, July 9, 2015. (AP Photo/Ronald Zak) Page 3

# US, Iran Trade Blame as Talks Hit Roadblock

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## US, Iran Trade Blame as Talks Hit Roadblock

BRADLEY KLAPPER  
MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

**VIENNA (AP)** — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry threatened Thursday to walk away from nuclear talks as he signaled that diplomats won't conclude an agreement with Iran over the coming hours — another delay that this time could complicate American efforts to quickly implement any deal. The Iranians immediately fired back, accusing the U.S. and its European allies of causing the deadlock.

Kerry and other Western officials said Iran still hadn't made the tough political decision to roll back its nuclear program. But a senior Iranian official said it was the Americans and their partners who were backtracking on several key commitments related to Iran's permitted level of nuclear activity and definitively ending economic sanctions against Tehran.

"This is not open-ended," Kerry told reporters outside the 19th-century Viennese palace hosting the negotiations. "We can't wait forever for the decision to be made. If the tough decisions don't get made, we

are absolutely prepared to call an end to this process."

It was the strongest indication yet of U.S. frustration with Iran, and vice versa, coming two days after President Barack Obama vowed a similar response to Iranian intransigence and suggesting patience was running out as the current round of talks headed into its 14th day.

Thursday's latest delay for a comprehensive deal is significant. Iran is demanding prompt easing of economic penalties for nuclear concessions, and the longer it takes world powers to make good on their promises, the longer they'll have to wait for the Iranians to scale back their nuclear program.

Under U.S. law, the seven nations negotiating in Vienna have to complete the accord before the end of Thursday in Washington to avoid invoking a 60-day congressional review period during which President Barack Obama cannot waive sanctions on Iran. If they meet the target, the review would only be 30 days.

The specter of prolonged public relations campaigns for and against the

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U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry pauses as he delivers a statement to the media on the Iran nuclear talks in Vienna, Austria, July 9, 2015. Kerry signaled Thursday that diplomats won't conclude an Iran nuclear agreement by early Friday morning, conceding another delay that this time could complicate American efforts to quickly implement any deal.

(Carlos Barria/Pool Photo via AP)

pact also may not work in Obama's favor.

The delay could imply that the U.S., Iran and other negotiating powers may end up having to push off the talks until September when any deal would again only amount to a 30-day review period.

"We will not rush and we will not be rushed," Kerry said.

"We would not be here continuing to negotiate just for the sake of negotiating. We're here because we believe we are making real progress toward a comprehensive deal," he said. But, he added: "We are not going to sit at the negotiating table forever."

Kerry spoke after discussing the state-of-play with other world powers for almost an hour Thursday evening. That conversation followed a flurry of other closed-

door meetings, including a 45-minute session between Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

The pair reconvened for more than an hour at night. "We're working hard, but not rushed, to get the job done," Zarif tweeted.

A senior Iranian official, who briefed foreign reporters covering the talks on condition no one quote him by name, declared the West's reluctance to ease economic penalties the biggest obstacle. The U.S. is "obsessed" with sanctions, said the official, adding that the deadlock could prove a major setback.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said he would remain in Austria's capital for negotiations into Friday morning, citing "good things, but there is still work to do." □



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## Confederate flag to be removed Friday from US statehouse



South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley signs a bill into law as former South Carolina governors and officials look on Thursday, July 9, 2015, at the Statehouse in Columbia, S.C. The law enables the removal of the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds more than 50 years after the rebel banner was raised to protest the civil rights movement.

(AP Photo/John Bazemore)

**JEFFREY COLLINS**  
Associated Press  
**COLUMBIA, South Carolina**  
(AP) — South Carolina's

governor signed a bill into law Thursday that will bring down the Confederate flag outside the Statehouse, a

move that seemed unthinkable only a month ago in this Southern state that was the first to secede from the

Union.  
The mass shooting at a historic black church last month, by a suspect who had posed in photos with the Civil War-era battle flag, led to the change. Police said the shootings were racially motivated.  
Gov. Nikki Haley's staff said the flag would be removed during a ceremony Friday morning and relegated to the state's Confederate Relic Room.  
"We will bring it down with dignity, and we will make sure it is stored in its rightful place," Haley said.  
Police then surrounded the rebel flag with barricades and rope, a siege of sorts that will end Friday after the banner is furled for the last time at a 10 a.m. EDT (1400 GMT) ceremony.  
The flag first flew over the Statehouse dome in 1961 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Civil War and was kept there as a symbol of official opposition to the

civil rights movement. Mass protests decades later led to a compromise in 2000 with lawmakers who insisted that the flag symbolized Southern heritage, and it was moved to a corner of the Statehouse grounds.  
But even from that lower perch, the historic but divisive symbol remained clearly visible in the center of town.  
Shooting suspect Dylann Storm Roof, who has not yet entered a plea to nine counts of murder, re-ignited a debate over the flag's history as a symbol of white superiority and racial oppression.  
Haley moved first, calling on South Carolina lawmakers to vote the flag down. Other Republican lawmakers who have long cultivated the votes of Confederate flag supporters were quickly announcing that other Civil War symbols no longer deserve places of honor. □





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## Joint Chiefs nominee: Russia biggest threat to US security



Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Joseph Dunford, Jr., testifies during his Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing to become the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 9, 2015. Dunford said Russia poses the greatest national security threat to the United States and that it would be "reasonable" to supply lethal arms to Ukrainians fighting against rebels backed by Moscow.

**DEB RIECHMANN**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Russia poses the world's greatest threat to U.S. national security, President Barack Obama's nominee to lead the military's Joint Chiefs of Staff declared on Thursday. The White House quickly distanced the president from that blunt assessment. Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford told senators at his confirmation hearing, "If you want to talk about a nation that could pose an existential threat to the United States, I'd have to point to Russia. And if you look at their behavior, it's nothing short of alarming." The four-star general said there are other threats to the nation, which must be addressed in concert. He pointed to China with its expanding military capability and presence in the Pacific, North Korea with its ballistic missile capability and Islamic State militants.

But he said, "My assessment today ... is that Russia presents the greatest threat to our national security."

At the White House, press secretary Josh Earnest distanced Obama from the assessment, saying Dunford's comments reflected his own view and not necessarily "the consensus analysis of the president's national security team." Yet Earnest said that much has changed since 2012, when Obama mocked his Republican opponent, Mitt Romney, for calling Russia the top U.S. geopolitical threat. Earnest said Russia's destabilizing actions in Ukraine and "saber-rattling" over its nuclear program and military activities near borders with NATO allies have increased U.S. concerns. Relations between Russia and the West have sunk to post-Cold War lows after Moscow's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Pen-

insula and its support for a pro-Russian insurgency in eastern Ukraine. The United States has responded with sanctions, but so far has refrained from providing lethal arms to the Ukrainian forces.

Dunford's comment was exactly what Sen. John McCain, chairman of the Armed Services Committee and a frequent critic of Obama's foreign policy, wanted to hear.

"In Europe, Vladimir Putin's Russia continues its onslaught in Ukraine," said McCain. "But even as Russian troops and equipment execute this neo-imperial campaign to undermine Ukraine's government and independence, the United States has refused Ukraine the weapons it needs and deserves for its defense." Dunford agreed with McCain.

"From a military perspective, I think it's reasonable that we provide that sup-

port to the Ukrainians," he said. "And frankly, without that kind of support, they're not going to be able to protect themselves against Russian aggression."

The general told the committee that Russia is a nuclear power that not only has the capability to violate the sovereignty of U.S. allies and do things that are inconsistent with U.S. national security interests,

but is actually doing so.

However, he also said he thinks it's important to maintain a military-to-military relationship with Russia to improve trust and mitigate the risk of either nation miscalculating the moves of the other.

Dunford, who appeared in the hearing room with his wife and other members of his family, is expected to be confirmed this month. □

(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

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# Bush campaign, group raise \$114.4M for presidential bid

THOMAS BEAUMONT  
JULIE BYKOWICZ

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush raised \$114.4 million in the first six months of the year to fuel his White House ambitions, a historic amount that takes full advantage of the nation's evolving campaign finance laws. No candidate for president has benefited from so much money so early in a campaign. The total is sure to eclipse the fundraising of each of the other 16 major competitors for the Republican nomination. The former Republican governor of Florida is taking a unique approach to a presidential bid, delegating many operations to an affiliated group that is free of limits on how much money a traditional campaign can raise from individual donors.

The strategy is untested in modern politics, the outgrowth of court decisions in 2010 that led to the creation of what is called the super political action com-



Republican presidential candidate former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush waits in a hallway after a campaign event in Henderson, Nev. Bush raised \$11.4 million in 16 days after formally launching his campaign for president, his campaign said Thursday. The total is a fraction of what he has pulled in overall to support his White House ambitions.

(AP Photo/John Locher)

mittee.

The affiliated group, Right to Rise, has been active since January. Right to Rise is not subject to the limits placed on donors to Bush's campaign.

The rest, \$11.4 million, came to Bush's formal campaign in the 16 days between its kickoff and the end of June. Contributions to the formal campaign are limited to checks of no more than \$2,700 for the primary and general election.

That amounts to an average of roughly \$710,000 a day, which the campaign touted as more than the \$562,000 per day average raised by Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton since she launched her campaign April 12. Clinton's campaign haul in that time totaled \$45 million. □

## Despite GOP pressure, Trump not going away

STEVE PEOPLES  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump says he's not going away.

A day after the Republican National Committee chairman asked the reality television star to tone down his rhetoric, Trump's campaign insisted he would not back off his portrayal of Mexican immigrants as criminals.

At the same time, he vowed to file paperwork next week ensuring he would qualify for next month's Republican presidential debate on national television.

"Mr. Trump said this is an issue the American people care about, and I'm going to continue to talk about it," Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said Thursday, recounting a Wednesday conversation between Trump and RNC chairman Reince Priebus.

Republican leaders worry that the outspoken businessman is hurting the party's standing with minority voters — particularly the nation's surging Hispanic population — months before voting begins in the 2016 presidential contest. Trump described Mexican immigrants as "rapists" and "criminals" in his campaign



Supporters of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump hold up signs across the street from a protest against Trump and his portrayal of Mexican immigrants as criminals outside the new Trump hotel, in Washington, Thursday, July 9, 2015.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

announcement speech last month that prompted various concerned business interests to cut ties with him.

Leading Republicans were slow to condemn his remarks in recent weeks as many hoped their inattention would help him fade from the headlines. It did not.

"Priebus said, 'I'd appreciate it if you could tone down your rhetoric about illegal immigrants coming across border and killing Americans,'" Lewandowski recounted.

"Mr. Trump said, 'I'm going to continue to talk about illegal immigrants coming across the border.'"

Meanwhile, Lewandowski said Trump would file his personal financial disclosure next week that shows a net worth of \$11 billion. Such a disclosure is necessary for Republican candidates wishing to participate in the first debate on Aug. 6, according to guidelines released by organizers Thursday. "It's very clear that Trump is going to be on the debate stage," Lewandowski said. □



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## US Financial Front:

# Applications for US jobless benefits rose again last week

MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The number of people seeking unemployment benefits rose last week to the highest level since late February. But the increase likely reflected temporary auto plant shutdowns rather than any underlying labor market weakness.

The number of people filing applications for unemployment benefits rose by 15,000 to 297,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. That is the highest weekly total since 327,000 applications were filed in the week of Feb. 28.

Even with the recent increases, benefit applications, which are a proxy for layoffs, remain at low levels that reflect a labor market that has been posting solid employment gains. The four-week average for claims, which smooths out some of the volatility, rose to 279,500, up slightly from 275,000 the previous week. It was the highest level for the four-week average since early May.

One of the states posting a large jump was Michigan, home to many U.S. auto plants, which typically see plant shutdowns in the summer to retool for a new model year.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said that for a few weeks, the jobless claims data would be distorted by the temporary auto plant shutdowns.

"We have no reason at all to think that the underlying trend in claims has changed and once the shutdowns are over we'd expect claims to revert to 280K or so," he said in a research note. "In the meantime, anything can happen over the next couple of weeks."

The number of people receiving benefits stood at 2.33 million for the week ending June 27, up from the previous week but 9.9 percent lower than a year ago. The government reported last week that the unemployment rate fell to a seven-year low of 5.3 percent in June, while employers added 223,000 jobs.

Other labor market indicators have not performed as well — a fact that Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen often cites in explaining why the central bank has not yet begun raising interest rates. In June, wage growth stalled, with hourly wages up just 2 percent over the past 12 months.

And the unemployment rate fell for the wrong reason: Many people out of work apparently got discouraged and gave up looking for a job. The government doesn't count



A help wanted sign is posted at a tractor dealership in Ashland, Va. The number of people filing applications for unemployment benefits last week rose to 297,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday.  
(AP Photo/Steve Helber)

people as unemployed unless they are actively seeking work.

The Fed released minutes of its June meeting on Wednesday. They revealed

that the central bank officials were seeing signs that the U.S. economy was recovering from its winter slump. But at the same time officials were concerned

about lingering weakness at home and the threat of troubles overseas including weaker growth in China and a stalemate in the Greek debt negotiations. □

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# American Living: Tapped: Craft sake is the latest trend that's brewing in US

**DAVID SHARP**  
**Associated Press**

**KITTERY, Maine (AP)** — First came boutique wineries. Then microbreweries and craft distilleries. Now Japanese sake aficionados are hoping to transform the so-called "rice wine" into the next artisan alcohol-of-the-moment in the U.S.

Dan Ford, whose Maine-made sake is just hitting the market, has bet his retirement savings that consumers will be sold on his premium sake once they give it a try.

"We see it as a market that's untapped," said Ford, who developed a taste for sake while working in Japan, then later returned there to learn from a sensei, or teacher, before launching Blue Current Brewery, one of about a dozen craft producers operating — or gearing up to — in North America.

Sake has been around for centuries in Japan, but consumption has dropped in recent years. Meanwhile, it's ticking upward in North America, benefiting



**Dan Ford, founder of the Blue Current Brewery, poses with a bottle of sake at the brewery in Kittery, Maine. Steamed rice is inoculated in a sauna-like koji room for two days as part of the six week brewing process to make "rice wine."**

from the overall popularity of Japanese foods — from ramen and soba to sushi and yakitori — as well as

perature tops 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius).

The rice and koji are fermented with water and yeast in casks for about 30 days before being pressed, leaving a yellow-hued liquid that looks like huangjiu, the Chinese word for "yellow wine," Ford says. When it is bottled, it looks like white wine. Unlike wine, though, sake generally is consumed fresh and isn't aged for long periods.

Those who love the beverage say further success in the U.S. will require educating consumers. They're also trying to win over those who may have had a bad experience with cheap sake, asking them to give it another try.

As the story goes, sake came to the U.S. when American soldiers stationed in Japan after World War II returned home with a taste for it, prompting Japanese sake makers to open the first U.S. breweries in Hawaii and California. Blake Richardson's moto-i in Minneapolis is credited with launching the microbrew trend with the first sake brewpub in the U.S. in 2008.

Richardson, whose sister company is now milling rice for several sake producers, including Blue Current, believes sake will grow as consumers become educated and feel less intimidated by the Japanese characters on bottles.

"We need education to get the terminology correct so they can walk up and say, 'I'd like a junmai nama genshu,'" he said. That translates to sake made from rice that's unpasteurized and undiluted. Restaurateurs, meanwhile, are getting more serious about proper pairings.

"Wine sommeliers are getting a taste and realizing where it can fit. It'll never overtake the wine world, but people are starting to respect it and realizing that it has its place. It has a great fit in the jigsaw puzzle of beer and wine. There is a lot of room for growth," said Tim Sullivan, founder of [urbansake.com](http://urbansake.com). □

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

riding the trend of consumers seeking far-flung flavors and artisanal products.

Premium ginjo sake is nothing like the rough-tasting stuff sometimes served warm at low-end sushi shops, craft brewers say. Top-notch sake — best served chilled — has a clean flavor profile that can be full-bodied and robust or light and fruity, sometimes with a subtle hint of licorice.

"Its depth and subtlety are tops, but the range of flavors that can come from rice, koji, water and yeast are amazing to many. It just tastes darn good," said John Gauntner, a sake expert from Ohio who has written books on the beverage and has taught sake production in the U.S. and Japan.

Though it's often called rice wine, sake actually is brewed like beer. The rice is milled to remove the husk, then a type of mold called koji is sprinkled into the steamed rice to break starches down into sugars, a process that takes place in a room where the tem-

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## Greek government offers sweeping proposal to creditors

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**Associated Press**

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** —

Greece finally met a deadline that counted on Thursday and made a series of sweeping proposals that its creditors needed by midnight to set off a mad rush toward a weekend deal to stave off a financial collapse of the nation.

The package met long-standing demands by creditors to impose wide-ranging sales-tax hikes and cuts in state spending for pensions that the left-leaning Greek government had long resisted.

It raised hopes that Greece can get the rescue deal that will prevent a catastrophic exit from the euro after key creditors said they were open to discussing how to ease the country's debt load, a long-time sticking point in their talks. In the text of proposals sent by Athens late Thursday, the government conceded to demands it had previously refused to accept — mostly on moving various categories of goods and services to higher sales

tax rates — in exchange for a new 53.5 billion-euro (\$59 billion) bailout package.

The government said the proposals would be voted on by Greece's parliament late Friday before an emergency summit Sunday of all 28 European Union leaders. After months of foot-dragging despite impending chaos,

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras met a midnight deadline with more than an hour to spare. The spokesman for eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem tweeted that it was "important for institutions to consider these (proposals) in their assessment" of the Greek situation.

Finance officials from the European institutions and the International Monetary Fund were to fine-comb through the proposals on Friday before the 19 eurozone finance ministers assess them on Saturday. In ideal circumstances, a summit of the full European Union would be able to approve them on Sunday.

Earlier Thursday, Donald Tusk of Poland, who chairs the EU summits, indicated



Members of the Greek Cabinet applaud as Greece's Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras arrives at the Greek Parliament in Athens, Thursday, July 9, 2015. Greece's government was racing Thursday to finalize a plan of reforms for its third bailout, hoping this time the proposal will meet with approval from its European partners and stave off a potentially catastrophic exit from Europe's joint currency, the euro, within days.

(Nikos Chalkiopoulos/InTime News via AP)

that European officials would make an effort to address Greece's key request for debt relief.

"The realistic proposal from Greece will have to be matched by an equally realistic proposal on debt sustainability from the creditors. Only then will we have a win-win situation," Tusk

said.

Greece has long argued its debt is too high to be paid back and that the country requires some form of debt relief. The International Monetary Fund agrees with the premise, but key European states like Germany have resisted the idea.

On Thursday, German Fi-

nance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said the possibility of some kind of debt relief would be discussed over coming days, though he cautioned it may not provide much help.

"The room for maneuver through debt reprofiling or restructuring is very small," he said. □

## EU ministers can't agree on relocating 40,000 refugees

**MIKE CORDER**  
**Associated Press**

**BRUSSELS (AP)** —

European Union ministers failed Thursday to agree on relocating 40,000 of the refugees making risky boat trips from North Africa to Italy and Greece and will try again later this month to broker a deal on how many people each country will accept. The stalemate came a day after the UN refugee agency announced that data from Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain showed 137,000

people arriving in those countries between January and June, 83 percent more than the same time last year.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said 1,867 people died making the crossing, up from 588 a year earlier.

"The debate we've had today has been difficult. It's a very sensitive issue," said Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn, whose country hosted Thursday's ministerial meeting. He said

ministers will meet again July 20 to try to reach an agreement.

Asselborn said ministers did manage to agree how to distribute 20,000 refugees currently being housed outside Europe, but getting countries to commit to divide up the 40,000 making their way to Greece and Italy over the next two years was a step too far.

"We're not very far from the target but some countries need time to negotiate, time to adjust and that

is why today we preferred to defer it to July 20," he said.

The inability to reach an agreement again exposes deep divisions within the EU over how to deal with the huge influx of migrants fleeing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Africa.

When the EU decided in June to share among members the 40,000 refugees, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker called it "a very modest effort."

While EU officials debated what to do, migrants kept setting out from Libya in hopes of reaching Europe's Mediterranean shores.

The Italian coast guard said that on Thursday it saved 106 migrants and recovered 12 bodies from a motorized rubber dinghy that had partially sunk.

That was one of eight rescues coordinated by the coast guard that day, bringing to safety a total of 823 migrants. □



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## Saud al-Faisal, former Saudi foreign minister, dies

**ABDULLAH AL-SHIHRI  
LEE KEATH**

**Associated Press**

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)**

— Saudi Arabia's Prince Saud al-Faisal, who was the world's longest-serving foreign minister with 40 years in the post until his retirement this year, has died, the ministry spokesman said Thursday. He was 75.

The tall, stately Prince Saud was a fixture of Mideast diplomacy, representing the oil-rich Gulf powerhouse as it wielded its influence in crisis after crisis shaking the region — from Lebanon's civil war in the 1970s and 1980s, through multiple rounds of Arab-Israeli peace efforts, the 1990 Iraqi invasion of neighboring Kuwait and the subsequent Gulf War, al-Qaida's Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States, the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq to the current day's tensions between the Arab Gulf bloc and Iran, Arab Spring uprisings, Syria's civil war and the spread of Islamic State group extremists.

The country's government-owned media announced Saud's death after midnight Friday. The official announcement, carried by state television, did not state the cause of death. The prince had undergone multiple surgeries in recent years for his back, which left him walking with a cane, and for other ailments.

Word of his passing first emerged late Thursday when Saudi Foreign Ministry spokesman, Osama Nugali, wrote on his official Twitter feed, "The eye

tears, the heart saddens. We all are saddened to be separated from you."

The prince, who took the ministry post in 1975, retired

ally and well."

"I personally admired him greatly, valued his friendship, and appreciated his wise counsel," Kerry add-

a red-checkered head piece. Soft spoken, he often showed a sense of humor not often seen among the publicly stolid royal

younger princes.

"The history of Saudi foreign policy is al-Faisal, both him and his father," he said. "It's how the world knew Saudi Arabia, through al-Faisal."

Al-Faisal played a key role in patching ties with the United States which were strained by the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, in which 15 of the 19 hijackers were Saudi nationals. He insisted in public speeches that Islam and Muslims are not the enemy, saying in 2004 in an address at the European Policy Center in Brussels: "You just cannot dismiss a 1,400-year-old culture and civilization by stigmatizing it as merely a hatchery for terrorism." Among the stories shared about the prince by Western diplomats in Riyadh is that at one point, he had approached King Abdullah to ask to retire as foreign minister, saying he was tired and needed to rest. The monarch declined his request, telling him, "So I should be the only one to die in office?"

In one of his last public appearances as foreign minister in March, he helped rally efforts for Saudi Arabia to lead a coalition of Arab countries to bomb Yemen's Shiite rebels who had taken over the capital there. "We are not warmongers, but if the drums of war call for it, we are prepared," Saud said in a speech to the kingdom's consultative Shura Council, arguing that Yemen was integral to overall Gulf security and that Iran was behind the rebels. □



**In this 2013 photo, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, left, speaks with Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The country's Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday, July 9, 2015, that the prince, who was the world's longest serving foreign minister with 40 years in the post until earlier this year, has died. He was 75.**

(Jason Reed, Pool Photo via AP)

on April 29, citing health reasons. At the time, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry hailed him, saying he "has not just been the planet's longest-serving Foreign Minister but also among the wisest." He was succeeded in the post by Adel al-Jubeir, who before that was Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Washington.

From Washington, Kerry expressed his condolences to Saud's family and friends, King Salman and to the people of Saudi Arabia, saying the prince was "a man of vast experience, personal warmth, great dignity, and keen insights who served his country loy-

ed. "His legacy as a statesman and diplomat will not be forgotten."

Saud was the son of Saudi Arabia's third king, Faisal, who ruled from 1964 until he was assassinated in 1975. Prince Saud, who had a bachelor's degree in economics from Princeton University and had been deputy petroleum minister, was soon after appointed to the foreign minister post, which his father had held during his reign. The young prince, fluent in English and French, brought an air of sophistication and charisma, whether in crisp suits or in the traditional Saudi white robe and gold-trimmed black cloak with

family.

He was father to six children, three boys and three girls. King Salman's son, Prince Sultan, is married to one of Prince Saud's daughters. The late prince's brothers are also known as highly educated and eloquent, with Prince Khaled al-Faisal serving as the governor of Meca and another brother, Prince Turki al-Faisal, heading a research center and think tank after decades as the head of intelligence. Mamoun Fandy, author of Saudi Arabia and the Politics of Dissent, said his death marks the end of an era as the elder royals move to shift power to





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## Pope denounces the 'throwaway' culture of consumer society

NICOLE WINFIELD  
JACOBO GARCIA  
Associated Press

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia (AP) —

Pope Francis denounced the "throwaway" culture of today's society that discards anyone who is unproductive as he celebrated his first public Mass in Bolivia on Thursday, one of the key days of his South American pilgrimage. It was to culminate with a summit of farmers, fishermen and indigenous whose causes have long been championed by history's first Latin American pope.

The government declared a national holiday so workers and students could attend the Mass, which featured prayers in Guarani and Aymara, two of Bolivia's indigenous languages, and an altar carved from wood by artisans of the Chiquitano people.

In a blending of the native and new, the famously unpretentious pope changed into his vestments for the Mass in a nearby Burger King.

Speaking to the crowd in South America's poorest country, Francis decried the prevailing mentality of the world economy where

so many people are "discarded" today — the poor, the elderly, those who are unproductive.

"It is a mentality in which everything has a price, everything can be bought, everything is negotiable," he said. "This way of thinking has room only for a select few, while it discards all those who are unproductive."

It's a theme he was expected to expand on later in the day at the summit of "popular movements," a collection of non-governmental organizations representing street sellers, indigenous groups, mining cooperatives and "cartoneros," who sift through garbage looking for recyclable goods. His keynote speech was expected to be one of the highlights of the trip, outlining some of his core priorities about a church that cares most for the poor and marginalized. When Francis headlined the first such summit at the Vatican last October, he issued a remarkable, off-the-cuff monologue on the injustice of unemployment, the scandal of poverty and the obligation to care for the Earth.



Pope Francis and Bolivia's President Evo Morales wear traditional Bolivian hats during the second World Meeting of Popular Movements in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, Thursday, July 9, 2015. Francis gave a late-afternoon speech to delegates at the gathering. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

"Tierra, Techo, Trabajo," was his mantra then. "Land, Lodging, Labor."

The scene in Santa Cruz's Christ the Redeemer plaza was festive, with street-sellers hawking digital watches with the pope's face on them and indigenous in feathered headdresses mingling with mestizos, or Bolivians of mixed indigenous-Spanish ancestry. One group of 25 Trinitarios indigenous from Beni, Bolivia tried to perform a traditional dance near the altar and were removed.

Hundreds of faithful came from Argentina, Brazil and Colombia as well, hoping to catch a glimpse of their

pope.

"The pope is Argentine and we came to see him, we wanted to make him feel

at home," said engineering student Emilio Domesan, who came to Santa Cruz with a group of friends. □

## Guatemala:

### Son-in-law of president arrested amid scandal

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) —

Authorities in Guatemala have arrested the son-in-law of President Otto Perez Molina for alleged influence trafficking.

The arrest of Gustavo Martinez was announced Thursday. He had served until April as Perez Molina's private secretary.

Martinez was arrested

based on investigations by the federal prosecutors' office and the U.N. International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala.

Prosecutors say several arrests have been made in the scandal, which involves bribes and influence trafficking aimed at favoring a private power

generation company.

Perez Molina's vice president, Roxana Baldetti, was forced to resign over a customs scandal involving kickbacks for lower import duties. The corruption ring was allegedly headed by her private secretary and no charges have been filed against the former vice president. □

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## Cuba announces 5-fold spike in cruise tourism since 2012

**PETER ORSI**

**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** Cruise ship tourism to Cuba spiked more than five-fold over the last three years and is up even higher so far in 2015, government officials reported Thursday.

In a statement published on the state-run website Cubadebate, the Transportation Ministry said the number of cruise ship port calls rose from 24 in 2012

to 139 in 2014, while visits by cruise passengers saw a similar jump from 6,770 to 37,519 during the same period.

Already this year there have been 174 port calls and 62,183 passenger visits through May, according to the ministry's statistics.

The statement called the cruise industry an "important element of tourism development for the country," and said further growth is

expected.

The report comes two days after U.S. cruise company Carnival announced a plan to begin running ships to the Caribbean island through its new brand, fathom, which focuses on trips in which passengers sail to a destination in order to volunteer there.

Amid a gradual thaw between Cold War foes Washington and Havana, Carnival has secured per-

mission from the U.S. Treasury Department but is still awaiting approval from the Cuban government.

The Cuban Transportation Ministry said growth during the last three years "could have been even greater if not for the inhuman measures imposed on us by the U.S. blockade (embargo) which substantially hurts maritime activity" a signal that Havana may look favorably on Carnival's pro-

posals and U.S. cruise ships in general.

Carnival hopes to begin the trips in May and says it would be the first American cruise company to visit Cuba since the advent of the embargo, which went into full effect in 1962.

Cruise ships dock regularly in the port of Havana during the winter high season, disgorging hundreds of travelers at a time into the adjacent colonial quarter. □

## Venezuela to stop buying rice from Guyana amid dispute



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro, gestures during his arrival to the National Assembly in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, July 6, 2015. Venezuela has decided to stop buying much of Guyana's rice crop amid an escalating border dispute between the South American neighbors, the Guyanese finance minister said Thursday.

**BERT WILKINSON**

**Associated Press**

**GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP)** — Venezuela has decided to stop buying much of Guyana's rice crop amid an escalating border dispute

between the South American neighbors, the Guyanese finance minister said Thursday.

Finance Minister Winston Jordan said Venezuelan officials informed him dur-

ing a visit to Caracas that they will be acquiring rice from other suppliers, including Suriname, by the end of the year.

Venezuela has in the past four years purchased

about 40 percent of Guyana's rice production, or about 200,000 tons, paying for it with oil that amounts to about half of Guyana's daily supply needs.

"It will be a significant blow to us," said Peter DeGroot, president of the Rice Millers Association.

The exchange of rice for oil was done under the Petrocaribe program, a Venezuelan initiative that provides fuel at generous financial terms to Caribbean and Central American countries. Guyana remains a member of Petrocaribe and will continue to buy oil from Venezuela, Jordan said. Jordan said Venezuela did not disclose the reason for its decision, but the long-running border dispute has been heating up following the recent disclosure of a major oil discovery off Guyana in waters that Venezuela also claims. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced Monday that he was recalling his ambassador in Guyana for consultations and

would review relations between the countries.

Venezuela has long refused to recognize a boundary drawn in 1899 and it claims about two-thirds of Guyana's territory as its own. Venezuela published a new map in May that expanded its maritime territory to essentially leave Guyana landlocked.

Guyana Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo said the timing of the rice announcement made it at least appear that it is connected to the border fight. "It will have to be considered whether Venezuela's position of the non-renewal of the Petrocaribe barter agreement is indeed an act of economic sanction against Guyana," he said in a statement.

President David Granger told Parliament on Thursday that Guyana does not have the military capacity to challenge Venezuela and his government would seek an international judicial settlement over the border issue. □

## Jamaica to reduce amount of water lost to leaks, theft

**DAVID McFADDEN**

**Associated Press**

**KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)** — As a regional drought worsens, Jamaica's water commission on Wednesday signed a \$42.5 million contract with an Israeli company aimed at slashing the large amount of drinking water that's wasted each day.

Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller said the five-year

project with water company Miya is expected to "achieve significant reduction in water loss" and improve reliability of supply to customers around the capital. "In this period of severe drought we cannot afford to lose one drop of water," Simpson Miller said.

Currently, just over half of all the tap water the National Water Commission produces is lost through leaks

or theft in the greater Kingston area. That's roughly 108 million liters (28.5 million gallons) of water lost each day around Jamaica's biggest city, where water rushing down streets from broken pipes is a fairly common sight. Meanwhile, many Jamaicans are suffering with reduced water supply in urban areas due to imposed water restrictions, while rural communities often have

no piped supply or very low pressure. The hardest-hit areas are getting water supplied by trucks. The contract calls for Miya, a water company established by Israeli billionaire Shari Arison, to help the commission improve its performance and boost the money it collects. The project is funded by the Inter-American Development Bank. The goal is to cut wastage to roughly 20

percent in five years.

A project already underway is intended to replace old, leaking pipes.

Jamaica, Cuba, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands are increasingly struggling with drought. The situation is expected to worsen as the region is forecast to receive below-normal rainfall during the hurricane season that began in June. □





## During Art Rule Aruba 2016: Culinary Arts to be Taught By Local Celebrity Chefs

**ORANJESTAD** - For this summer's edition of Art Rules Aruba, young aspiring artists will again get the opportunity to experience an outstanding educational arts program with Art Rules Aruba 2016, kicking off on July 20th

Art Rules Aruba, is introducing a new team of teachers this time, calling this year's summer program for artistic teens, the MASTER Edition, with seven art disciplines taught including: Creative Writing, Creative Media, Dance, Theater, Music & Performance, DJ and Culinary Arts.

In view of the quest for excellence, the culinary arts program has recruited the island's top chefs who will be sharing their valuable time and valuable knowledge with students. Chef Miguel Garcia, of the Aruba Marriott Resort will teach the History of Culinary Arts; Chef Ervin Husken, of Screaming Eagle Restaurant will present the Principals and Practices of Ice cream making, covering both ice creams and sorbets; Chef Matt Boland, of Divi Resorts will discuss healthy Cooking Principals and help kids make their

most common every days dishes, super healthy! Chef Urvin Croes of the Kitchen Table and White Modern Cuisine will introduce Vegetarian and Vegan Cooking Principals; Chef Stephen Toevs of the Ritz Carlton Aruba will demonstrate Fish & Meat Butchery and the basics skills necessary to tackle beef and seafood, while Chef Dora Wang of the Ritz Carlton will elaborate on Pastry Baking and Pastry Principals. Organizer Ayra Kip, of the Pancake Gallery, explains that the goal with this Master Edition, of Art Rule Aru-

ba, is to elevate the program to a higher advanced level, where students get to experience more intensive training, and produce more Art during the two weeks of instruction this summer. Over the course of the last five years, the program has enrolled more than 700 aspiring artists, all local teenagers between the ages of 13 and 26, who possess a passion for the Arts and the will to develop their personal talents. Since 2010, Art Rules Aruba has brought more than 65 international artists and teachers from around the world to the Is-

land to teach art in several disciplines. Starting with 6 disciplines six years ago, Art Rules has since grown into offering seven art disciplines this year thanks to generous local sponsors including RBC Royal Bank.

Art Rules Aruba wishes to remind students that this year's registration deadline is July 10th and the program will kick off on July 20th at the Academy of Arts & Design Aruba. For more information visit [www.artrules.org](http://www.artrules.org) or like Art Rules on Facebook/artrules-aruba Instagram @Artrules-flicks Twitter@ArtrulesU. □



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## **The Kitchen Table by White and White Modern Cuisine: Welcome to the World of White: The Very Best of Fine Dining in Aruba**



**--Executive Chef Urvin from White Modern Cuisine and The Kitchen Table takes you on a culinary journey in Aruba.**

**PALM BEACH** - Chef Urvin Croes, born and raised in Aruba, graduated from culinary school and went on to gain experience in Michelin star restaurants in Europe. He returned to Aruba because he had a dream: to open Aruba's first fine dining, modern gourmet cuisine restaurant. With the opening of White Modern Cuisine in 2012, that dream came true. The modern fine dining concept was new to Aruba, and for the first few months it was a challenging time. Thanks to Chef Urvin's unique culinary creations and his wife Mary-Anne's determination, they are now proud, but humbled, to be consid-

ered one of Aruba's top dining establishments with glowing reviews, receiving the award for #1 modern cuisine restaurant on Aruba. When approached by Blue Residences to open a culinary studio, Chef Urvin did not have to think twice. Where White Modern Cuisine is an 'a la carte' restaurant featuring modern cuisine, at The Kitchen Table by White Chef Urvin saw an opportunity to enhance the 'White Experience' with a 16-seat Kitchen Table experience, with a monthly changing, fixed menu culinary journey. Now, international and local foodies have two options to explore the unique culinary creativity of Chef Urvin, and the reviews for the restaurants speak for themselves:

*"Review for The Kitchen Table by White: "A Michelin Star Waiting to Happen"*  
*"Review for White Modern Cuisine: "Michelin Guide Should Give Stars to This Restaurant"*  
*"Review for Chef Urvin Croes: "This Chef Will Be Famous!"*

What makes Chef Urvin and his restaurants unique are the blend of modern culinary techniques for traditional Caribbean dishes that Chef Urvin created based on old family recipes, prepared with the

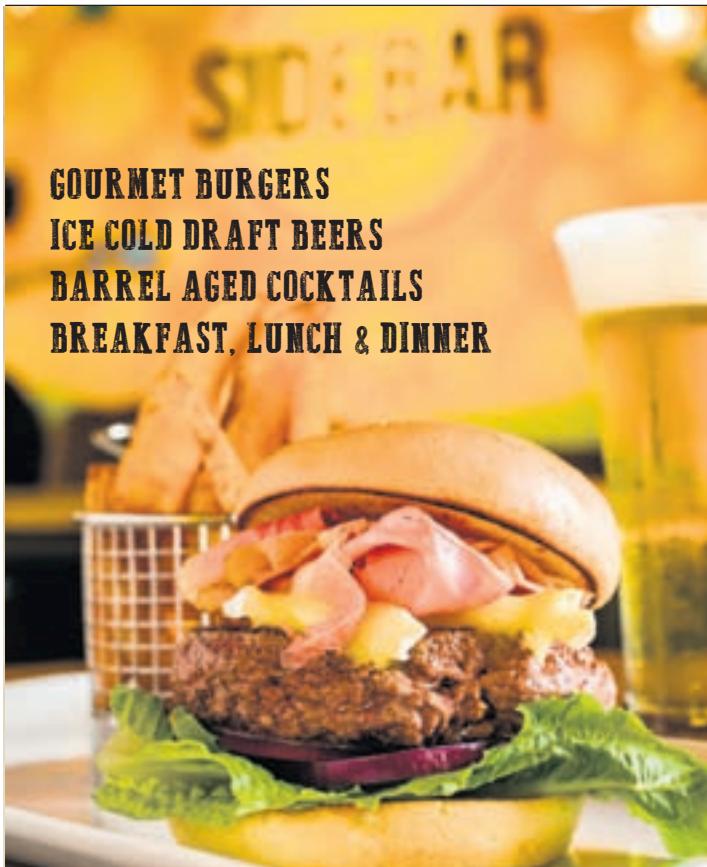
freshest possible ingredients and presented as exquisite, delicious works of art. Enhancing the culinary experiences with wine pairings at either restaurant or a daring 'cocktail pairing' at White Modern Cuisine, foodies will have all senses delighted. Which restaurant to

choose? Chef Urvin recommends both, with White's a-la-carte menu, professionally paired with wines or cocktails, or The Kitchen Table's eight-course culinary journey for the true gourmands. Chef Urvin's signature style of fresh ingredients, providing a modern twist to traditional

local Aruban and Caribbean favorites can be found in both restaurants. Since you're in Aruba, take the time to take a culinary journey in time, across Aruba, and enjoy the flavors of food and drinks in The Kitchen Table by White and White Modern Cuisine. White Modern Cuisine is conveniently located on the second floor of Palm Beach Plaza Mall, within walking distance of the high rise hotels. Reservations can be made through their website <http://www.whitecuisine.com/reservation/>, by calling 586-1190 or through your hotel concierge. For more information on The Kitchen Table, please visit [www.thekitchentablebywhite.com](http://www.thekitchentablebywhite.com), call 528-7015, or reach out to your hotel concierge. □







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Sidebar is the newest restaurant on Aruba, and oh boy, it is a beauty! Unique in a trendy, sassy and sexy way, it is ready to welcome all of you.



*Common ground* and denominating factor of the guests includes the enjoyment of life, in particular the good things, such as great bistro food, wonderful drinks and a relaxed, happy atmosphere. Sidebar is the name of a stylish, hip restaurant on the side of the Renaissance Marketplace; just hop inside, sit at the bar or on the amazing porch and enjoy – the party at Sidebar starts at 8 am and goes on until midnight.

At Sidebar you can sit in a booth, on a lounge chair, on a bar stool or stand at a cocktail table. Side Bar is all about options, so go and check it out on the far end corner of the Renaissance Marketplace.

Enjoy this new, hot, exciting and very, very tasty restaurant to the fullest!

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## RBC Blue Water Project:

# Volunteers Clean Up Simpson Bay Beach to Support Turtle Nesting

**PHILIPSBURG** - Over 20 RBC Volunteers gathered in the early morning on June 20 at Simpson Bay Beach to start the RBC volunteer beach clean-up, aimed at helping make the turtle nesting area on that beach more accessible for the endangered Hawksbill, Leatherback and Green sea turtles which nest on Simpson Bay Beach. These sea turtles have made it their nesting beach in the period from March to November each year.

The beach cleanup was organized in conjunction with Nature Foundation St. Maarten (NFS), and initiated in connection with the "RBC Blue Water Day 2015 Project" which is the environmental priority program for RBC Royal Bank focusing on the preservation of the world's most precious natural resource: water. RBC in St. Maarten has been committed to clean Guana Bay in the past and



now Simpson Bay for the duration of the turtle nesting season from March till November each year and commits to support with building awareness on sea turtle nesting

The cleanup delivered included garbage with plas-

tic debris and litter. RBC Royal Bank supports the awareness building on the topic of turtle nesting and the preservation of a clean beach for humans and turtles specifically. This project of cleaning up the beach for the turtle nesting sea-

son fits perfectly into RBC's philosophy on the sustainable development of the environment. RBC Royal Bank firmly believes that it is the responsibility of the bank to positively influence the social development of the community in which it

operates by maximizing its contributions to the state of environment of the island.

The Nature Foundation would like to commend and thank RBC and especially the volunteers for the hard work they did on Saturday morning. St. Maarten is one of the few territories in the Caribbean where turtles come up the beach to lay their eggs. Through the excellent work done by RBC volunteers the beach is now clean for nesting turtles to lay their eggs.

By means of this environmental initiative RBC Royal Bank moreover wants to add value to its environmental footprint in the St. Maarten community and most importantly demonstrate the bank's commitment to the development and preservation of the environment of the island through the active engagement of its employees. □



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## De Palm Island Introduces Power Snorkel

**BALASHI** - De Palm Island has long been one of the best places to snorkel in Aruba and now with the



introduction of Power Snorkeling the experience is enhanced to a whole new level. The Power Snorkel allows guests to float and maneuver effortlessly through the water with a sea scooter which is held by hand in front of you and pulls you through the water. Benefits are that you don't have to use your legs for swimming and you can cover a larger snorkel area allowing you spend all your time enjoying the reef and fish. The sea scooter delivers speed of up to 2.5 mph and is light enough to carry



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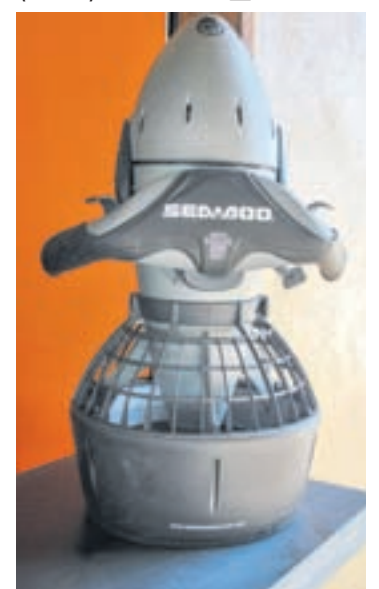
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The coral reef at De Palm Island is one of Aruba's most spectacular snorkel sites and well known for its many Blue Parrotfish. Power Snorkel Guided Tours are organized daily (except Sundays) in the morning and afternoonso make sure to sign up the moment you book your entrance or after arrival on De Palm Island.

Power Snorkel can be booked as an additional activity to De Palm Island, Aruba's only all-inclusive destination at an affordable all-inclusive price. Whether you are a family looking for a day of fun and adventure together or a couple seeking to escape the hustle and bustle of the busy beach area for some relaxation and pampering, this island offers something for everyone! Just bring your towel, swimwear and camera and enjoy. A day at De

Palm Island includes alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, breakfast and lunch buffet, beaches and beach chairs, palapas, unlimited banana boat rides, a waterpark, snorkeling and much more.

For more details about Power Snorkel visit De Palm Tours Concierge and Activity Desk in your hotel or [www.depalmstours.com](http://www.depalmstours.com). T.: (+297) 522-4500. □







Karrie Webb of Australia reacts after remising a putt on the 14th hole during the first round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament at Lancaster Country Club, Thursday, July 9, 2015 in Lancaster, Pa.

Associated Press

### Webb, Alex share early lead at rain-halted U.S. Women's Open

BOB LENTZ

Associated Press

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP) — Veteran Karrie Webb and second-year LPGA Tour player Marina Alex each shot a 4-under 66 Thursday to share the early lead on a wet and windblown first day at the U.S. Women's Open.

The 40-year-old Webb reeled off four birdies on her second nine holes, while Alex birdied three of her last five before the first round was suspended. An early-evening storm packing strong winds, lightning and heavy rain pounded Lancaster Country Club.

The stoppage came with 55 golfers still on the course. The USGA's plan is to complete the first round early Friday and then start the second.

Amy Yang, who played in the morning, was in the clubhouse a shot behind the leaders. Two players on the course were also at 3 under. Na Yeon Choi, the 2012 U.S. Open champion, had three holes to play, while Jane Park had five.

Continued on page 22



# OH DEERE!

## Spieth stumbles in 1st round of John Deere Classic

Golfer Jordan Spieth checks his yardage book on the second hole during the first round of the John Deere Classic golf tournament Thursday, July 9, 2015, in Silvis, Ill.

Associated Press

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## Williams routs Sharapova, faces Muguruza in Wimbledon final

**HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — Her game in high gear, history in the offing, Serena Williams is perfectly content to let everyone else talk about what a victory in the Wimbledon final would mean.

A "Serena Slam" of four consecutive major titles. The third leg of a calendar-year Grand Slam. A 21st major singles trophy, one short of the Open-era record.

For now, the No. 1-seeded Williams is keeping her thoughts to herself, declaring she won't entertain questions about those topics, even after easily dismissing No. 4 Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-4 in the semifinals at the All England Club on Thursday to close in on the milestones.

"I don't want the pressure of that, and I'm not thinking of that. When you talk about it every time, you can't help but think about it," Williams said. "It's been OK just to free my brain from that."

Whatever works. Clearly, Williams is doing plenty right at the moment. Particularly against Sharapova, whom she's beaten 17 times in a row.

Williams hit 13 aces, reaching 123 mph. Fewer than half her serves were put in play. She never faced a break point, and was pushed to deuce just once



Serena Williams of the United States returns a shot to Maria Sharapova of Russia, during the women's singles semifinal match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Thursday July 9, 2015.

on her serve. She had a 29-9 edge in winners.

In sum, Williams made Sharapova look like some sort of middle-of-the-pack wannabe, rather than the five-time major champion, career Grand Slam owner and former No. 1 that she is. "Nothing to do with Sharapova," said Williams' coach, Patrick Mouratoglou. "She does this to most of the top 10 players. It's true. She's dominating the game for a long time."

Williams beat her sister Venus in the fourth round and another past No. 1 and multiple major winner, Victoria Azarenka, in the quarterfinals.

On Saturday, with so much at stake, Williams will face No. 20 Garbine Muguruza of Spain, who advanced to her first Grand Slam final by eliminating No. 13 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

"If you want to win a Grand Slam, when you dream, you say, 'I want Serena in the final,'" the 21-year-old Muguruza said. "She's like one of the best players in all these years."

One of? Five women have won four consecutive Grand Slam tournaments — and Williams already is among that group, having done it from 2002-03. Only three have

pulled off a true Grand Slam, winning all four majors in a single season; Steffi Graf was the last, in 1988.

If Williams can beat Muguruza, the 33-year-old American would head to the U.S. Open in August with a shot at that feat.

Under a cloudless sky at Centre Court on Thursday, it was quickly clear Williams' semifinal wouldn't last long. At age 17, Sharapova beat Williams twice in 2004, including in the Wimbledon final — and hasn't defeated her since.

In the opening game, Sharapova double-faulted three times and got broken. More ominously, the first four points that lasted at least six strokes ended with errors by Sharapova. If she couldn't serve well, and couldn't stay with Williams once the ball was in play, Sharapova was in trouble.

Asked what she needs to do to be competitive against Williams, Sharapo-

va responded: "A lot more than I'm doing."

Radwanska, the runner-up to five-time Wimbledon champion Williams in 2012, used a six-game run to make things close against the hard-hitting Muguruza. But a pivotal moment came with Muguruza two points from victory, serving at 5-3, deuce.

A backhand from Muguruza landed near the baseline, and after Radwanska hit the ball, she stopped playing and lifted her racket to indicate she wanted to challenge the call — at the same time that Muguruza was missing a forehand.

"Wasn't really a good decision," Radwanska acknowledged.

Muguruza's miscue would have given Radwanska a break point. Instead, the replay review showed Muguruza's backhand caught the edge of the baseline — giving her a match point, which she converted. When it ended, Muguruza dropped her racket and fell onto the court on her stomach.

As big a deal as this win was — "a present after the hard work," Muguruza called it — she wants the title, of course.

Here's the one element that might give Muguruza a hint of hope: In the French Open's second round last year, she stunned Williams 6-2, 6-2, the most lopsided loss in Williams' 318-match Grand Slam career.

"She made me improve," said Williams, who beat Muguruza at this year's Australian Open, "so she has me on my toes."

That's generally bad news for Williams' foes.

Just ask Sharapova. □

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## Spieth stumbles in 1st round of John Deere Classic

By LUKE MEREDITH

AP Sports Writer

SILVIS, Illinois (AP) -- For every good shot Jordan Spieth hit, a bad one seemed to follow.

Spieth's struggles left him eight shots back after the first round of his final British Open tuneup.

Justin Thomas and Nicholas Thompson each shot an 8-under-par 63 to share the lead at the John Deere Classic on Thursday. Spieth was at even-par 71 in his first round since winning the U.S. Open.

Spieth, who will go for his third straight major title next week at St. Andrews, had three bogeys in a four-hole stretch and missed a 15-foot birdie putt on No. 18.

"Just a rusty round," said Spieth, who skipped last week's Greenbrier Classic. "I didn't get out on the golf course like maybe I should have."

Thomas and Thompson were a stroke ahead of Charles Howell III and Luke Guthrie. Three-time tournament winner Steve Stricker led the list of golfers at 6 under.

Spieth is one of just five golfers in the current top 20 of the Fed Ex Cup standings to play in the Quad Cities.

Some even criticized Spieth for supposedly jeopardizing his Grand Slam push by playing this tournament rather than heading over to the United Kingdom early to prep for the Open Championship.

Spieth disagreed, naturally. But Spieth nonetheless



**Jordan Spieth signals his tee shot hooked left on the second hole during the first round of the John Deere Classic golf tournament Thursday, July 9, 2015, in Silvis, Ill.**

Associated Press

struggled for the "good feels" he said he was hoping to find at this forgiving 7,300-yard course on the banks of the Mississippi River. In a rare display of frustration, Spieth even slammed his fist on a table after barely missing a short birdie putt.

Spieth finally got something going on his 13th hole, sinking a 32-foot birdie putt after escaping the bunker. He put his next approach within 2 feet for another birdie. But Spieth's tee shot on the 15th hole wound up in the gallery.

Still, Spieth shot a 70 during

his opening round here in 2013 and went on to post his first career win at age 19.

"I had some pretty bad lip-outs, and that's going to happen. I'm still going to continue to hit good putts. If they drop and I can chip the ball a little better, then I'll be in good position," Spieth said.

Thomas had his first career win within grasp with 10 holes to go last week at the Greenbrier Classic. He quickly learned how tough it is to win on the PGA Tour. Thomas collapsed behind a shaky putter, falling out

of contention with a bogey followed by a double-bogey. He then shot a ghastly 8 on the par-4 16th and finished tied for 54th.

On Thursday, Thomas answered with 10 birdies, including a 51-foot putt on his 16th hole.

"I just played a couple of bad holes, and if it wasn't for that I'm right there. There's definitely more positives than negatives to take out of the last couple of weeks," Thomas said about last week's final round. "I've felt like I've been close."

Thompson, who has never

won in 214 PGA Tour starts, had an eagle on the par-4 14th to highlight his impressive start.

Guthrie, a 2012 graduate of the nearby University of Illinois, went on a run of seven birdies in 10 holes. But he missed a 15-foot par putt that would have put him atop an unlikely leaderboard.

Iowa native Zach Johnson, who has finished either first or second in three straight John Deere Classics, shot a 66. It was Johnson's 25th straight round in the 60s at Deere Run.



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## Justin Gatlin races to 100 win in 9.75 at Athletissima meet

**GRAHAM DUNBAR**

**AP Sports Writer**

**LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP)** — Justin Gatlin easily beat two big-name rivals by clocking 9.75 seconds in the 100 meters at the Athletissima Diamond League meet on Thursday.

The in-form Gatlin left runner-up Asafa Powell of Jamaica trailing in 9.92, the same time as his fellow American Tyson Gay in third.

The time was 0.01 outside Gatlin's world-leading season-best and the 2004 Olympic champion remained unbeaten over 100 since 2013.

Gatlin is increasingly looking like the man to beat at the world championships in Beijing next month as title holder Usain Bolt struggles with a leg injury.

"It's not a message to anybody," Gatlin said of his dominating performance. "Usain is a great opponent, so it's on me to go out and give him the best challenge I can. Hopefully he will be healthy and ready to go for the world championships."

Though Gay and Powell were faster out of the blocks on a breezy night, Gatlin drew ahead within 30 meters and quickly went clear. The show impressed Gay, who took the 2007 world title after Gatlin began serving a four-year ban for doping.

"The guy has improved. He's polished, he's sharp," Gay said of his U.S. relay teammate. "He has a lot of confidence and he's on a roll right now."

Powell, the former world record-holder, lacked his typical fast start running in the lane to Gatlin's left. "I didn't run like I should. The first part of my race was not all that great," said Powell, whose 9.81 time at Paris last weekend puts him second in the season rankings.

Also Thursday, Olympic champion Mo Farah of Britain won the 5,000

in his first race since his American coach Alberto Salazar faced doping allegations last month.

Farah's readiness was seriously tested when he was passed with 250 meters left by Yomif Kejelcha of Ethiopia, who ran a world-leading time in Rome last month.

don Olympic gold medalists who won on Thursday, with two showing great form.

Anna Chicherova of Russia cleared a world-leading 2.03 meters in the high jump. Her third attempt at the height was nine centimeters better than her previous

second-fastest woman in the world this year. Only American Francena McCorory has run quicker.

With Bolt having withdrawn last week citing a left-leg injury, 19-year-old Anguilla-born Zharnel Hughes of Britain won the men's



From left, Tyson Gay from the USA, Justin Gatlin from the USA and Asafa Powell from Jamaica compete in the men's 100m race at the Athletissima IAAF Diamond League athletics meeting in the Stade Olympique de la Pontaise in Lausanne, Switzerland, Thursday, July 9, 2015.

Associated Press.

Fighting back in the home stretch, Farah went clear then waved his arms urging the crowd to cheer, and struck his chest twice with his right hand and punched the air wildly as he crossed in 13:11.77.

"This victory is also a way to answer some of the critics regarding my coach that came out lately," said Farah, who was not implicated in the allegations that Salazar has denied.

Farah was among five 2012 Lon-

best jump in 2015.

In the men's javelin, Keshorn Walcott set a Trinidad and Tobago record of 90.16 meters, one of four Athletissima records set in the meeting's 40th edition.

Olympic champion Allyson Felix of the U.S. won the women's 200 in 22.09, though Shaunae Miller of Bahamas had the most impressive sprint performance.

Miller clocked a personal best 49.92 in the 400 to become the

200 in a personal best 20.13.

Christian Taylor of the U.S. won a high-class triple jump with 18.06 meters, edging past Pedro Pablo Pichardo of Cuba who also beat the previous meet record with 17.99.

Other meet records were set by German shot putter David Storl's 22.20-meter effort and Virginia Nyambura of Kenya's 9:16.99 run in the women's 3,000 steeplechase. □



# Martin becomes 2nd Tour leader to pull out injured

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

LE HAVRE, France (AP) —

The yellow jersey seems to be an unlucky charm at this Tour de France.

German rider Tony Martin started Thursday's sixth stage in the lead and ended it in the hospital after breaking his collarbone in a crash that he caused near the finish line. He became the second race leader to pull out of the race, after

— and the battered riders haven't even reached the mountains yet.

There was intense heat on day 1, ferocious side winds on day 2, a huge crash on stage 3, scary cobblestone sections on stage 4, and lashing rain on stage 5.

And on the sixth day, another crash.

"This has been like a movie, an emotional roller coaster at this Tour," Martin said.

Frenchman William Bon-

clipped another bike and then brought down some eight other riders.

Moments later, he was sitting against a railing, staring into space as the dazed riders looked around for their bikes.

Unable to hold his handlebar, with his left arm in a sling position, Martin rolled slowly over the line with several teammates alongside him.

Two-time Tour champion

road.

"I don't get it yet that I have won a stage on the Tour," said the 29-year-old Stygar, a former Cyclo-cross rider who is Martin's teammate. "It's an amazing feeling, but on the other hand I feel really sorry for Tony," Stygar said. "It's the Tour de France; it's just crazy, crazy. You don't know what will happen around each corner."

Peter Sagan of Slovakia,

chasing a fourth straight green jersey as the Tour's best sprinter, finished in second place, two seconds behind.

Quintana had blood dripping from his right arm and elbow as he crossed the line. Froome was relieved to come through the melee with just a minor graze to his knee.

Froome leads Contador by 36 seconds; Nibali by 1:38 and Quintana by 1:56. □



Germany's Tony Martin, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, lies on the road with a broken collar bone after crashing in the last kilometers of the sixth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 191.5 kilometers (119 miles) with start in Abbeville and finish in Le Havre, France, Thursday, July 9, 2015.

Associated Press

Swiss rider Fabian Cancellara fractured two vertebrae in his lower back on Monday.

"The collarbone is in lots of pieces, so it was a major impact," Martin's Etixx Quick-Step team doctor Helge Ripenhof said. "One of the pieces came through the skin, which means it's an open fracture."

The crash also dragged down defending champion Vincenzo Nibali and fellow Tour contender Nairo Quintana, but they escaped with cuts and bruises. Czech rider Zdenek Stybar rode away amid the chaos to clinch his first Tour stage win.

While neither Martin nor Cancellara was a contender for the overall victory, the injuries they sustained highlight how tough this Tour has been already

net injured his neck after causing Monday's crash, which brought down 30 riders, while Australian rider Michael Matthews finished Thursday's ride despite having two broken ribs sustained on the third stage. He is in last place overall.

With Martin out, 2013 Tour champion Chris Froome moves into the overall lead. The Briton may elect not to wear the yellow jersey on Friday — a sign of respect toward Martin under cycling's etiquette guidelines. And he may be better off without it.

Martin, his yellow jersey shining, moved near the front during the final kilometers in order to put teammate Mark Cavendish in a good position to attack.

He lost control of his bike with about 900 meters to go. It swerved to the right,

Alberto Contador of Spain and Froome have escaped all the crashes — although the British rider almost fell when Nibali's bike swerved into his.

In the confusion, Nibali actually thought Froome was to blame.

Then, after Froome came to Nibali's Astana team bus to clear things up, the Italian rider performed a swift U-turn and apologized to his Tour rival.

"I was very upset with him. But then, after watching the video I said sorry to him," Nibali said. "I moved right, (into) Froome, thought it was his fault."

Did we clear it all up? Yeah. We are not footballers, we are cyclists."

With bikes piled up and riders slowing down, Stybar rode ahead while Martin sat up on the side of the

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FRI 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00  
SAT 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50 | 11:00  
SUN & HOL 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:50

2D VERSION  
MON-THURS 5:30 | 7:45  
FRI 5:30 | 7:45 | 10:00  
SAT 3:15 | 5:30 | 7:45 | 10:00  
SUN & HOL 3:15 | 5:30 | 7:45

SANDRA BULLOCK | JON HAMM

**THE GALLOWS**

MON-THURS 3:50 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40  
FRI 3:50 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:45  
SAT 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40 | 11:45  
SUN & HOL 3:25 | 5:30 | 7:35 | 9:40

**SELF/LESS**

MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:25  
FRI-S 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:00  
SAT 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:25 | 12:00  
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:25

RYAN REYNOLDS | NATALIE MARTINEZ

**MAGIC MIKE XXL**

MON-THURS 9:15  
FRI 9:15 | 11:40  
SAT 9:15 | 11:40  
SUN & HOL 9:15

**TERMINATOR**

3D VERSION  
MON-THURS 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20  
FRI 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20 | 12:05  
SAT 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20 | 12:05  
SUN & HOL 3:50 | 6:35 | 9:20

2D VERSION  
MON-FRI 5:15  
SAT-SUN & HOL 5:15

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER | EMILIA CLARKE

**ted2**

MON-THURS 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35  
FRI 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35 | 12:05  
SAT 1:50 | 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35 | 12:05  
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:25 | 7:00 | 9:35

**JURASSIC WORLD**

MON-THURS 8:00  
FRI 8:00 | 10:45  
SAT 2:30 | 8:00 | 10:45  
SUN & HOL 2:30 | 8:00

CHRIS PRATT | TY SIMPKINS

**INSIDE OUT**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:05  
FRI 4:50 | 7:05  
SAT 2:40 | 4:50 | 7:05  
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 4:50 | 7:05

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# AP sources: James, Cavs agree to 2-year contract

**TOM WITHERS**

**AP Sports Writer**

**CLEVELAND (AP)** — Just shy of the one-year anniversary of his celebrated homecoming, LeBron James told the Cavaliers he's staying put.

James agreed to terms of a one-year, \$23 million contract for next season, two people familiar with the negotiations told the Associated Press on Thursday. The deal includes a player option for 2016-17, said the persons who spoke on condition of anonymity because James has not yet signed the contract.

That will be done soon as the four-time MVP has a busy schedule over the next few weeks to promote



In this June 7, 2015, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James smiles during a news conference after Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif.

**Associated Press**

a new comedy film in which he portrays himself.

James is hosting a VIP screening in Akron on Friday, where he'll walk the

red carpet with the other stars of "Trainwreck," an R-rated movie he filmed last summer shortly after announcing he was returning

to the Cavs.

Unlike last July 11, when his essay in Sports Illustrated touched Cleveland fans and changed the NBA's landscape, James wasn't the star attraction during this summer's free agency period. He ended any suspense about his future in Cleveland by saying he several times during the past season that he intends to end his career with the Cavs. So while his agreement with the Cavs is not a surprise, it does give him future flexibility and the ability to make more money next summer when the league's new TV deal kicks in. The \$24 billion package is expected to escalate the salary cap by millions.

The 30-year-old James led the Cavs to the NBA Finals in his first season back. Cleveland lost in six games to Golden State, but through no fault of James.

Forced to carry the scoring load following injuries to All-Star point guard Kyrie Irving and forward Kevin Love, James was brilliant against the Warriors, averaging 35.8 points, 13.3 rebounds and 8.8 assists — the best statistical line in finals history.

But it wasn't enough, and after dropping to 2-4 in the finals, James said he's more motivated than ever to bring a championship to Cleveland, which has gone without a major pro sports title since 1964. □

# AP sources: Jordan spurns Mavericks for Clippers

**SCHUYLER DIXON**

**JON KRAWCZYNSKI**

**AP Sports Writers**

**DALLAS (AP)** — DeAndre Jordan has backed out of a verbal agreement to join the Dallas Mavericks and chosen to remain with the Los Angeles Clippers.

Jordan made the switch after a face-to-face meeting at his Houston home with a contingent of Clippers including Blake Griffin and Paul Pierce, two people with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Wednesday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the NBA's ban on public comments before players can sign contracts, starting at 12:01 a.m. Eastern time on Thursday.

The Clippers announced Jordan's retention late Wednesday and also tweeted "WE'RE OFFICIALLY CENTERED."

It was a surprising reversal for Jordan, the defensive pillar who agreed to a four-year, \$80 million deal with the Mavericks last week.

The Mavericks and Jordan's agents tried to reach him repeatedly while he met with the Clippers, but were unsuccessful. And Griffin sent out a tweet on



In this Saturday, April 11, 2015 file photo, Los Angeles Clippers' DeAndre Jordan brings in a rebound in front of Memphis Grizzlies' Zach Randolph, left, and JaMychal Green, right, during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles.

**Associated Press**

Wednesday with a picture of a chair underneath the handle of a door.

"Don't agree with the furniture layout but I'm not an interior designer," Griffin quipped.

The Clippers can offer a fifth year on a max contract at more than \$100 million. They also can offer the familiarity of the only NBA team Jordan has ever played for, as well as a more talented roster featuring point guard Chris Paul and Griffin.

Dallas owner Mark Cuban was already in Houston to try to persuade Jordan to stick with his commitment

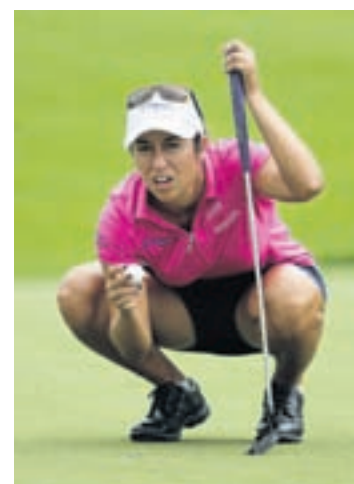
to the Mavericks, according to a person with knowledge of the situation.

The owner was so confident that he had landed Jordan that he went on a Dallas radio show this week and spoke about the role he would have in the Mavericks' offense. Discussing the free agent before a contract was signed earned Cuban a \$25,000 fine.

Getting Jordan and shooting guard Wesley Matthews had the Mavericks hoping they could avoid a major rebuilding project and make one last run with aging star Dirk Nowitzki. □

## Womens Open

Continued from page 17



Marina Alex lines up a putt on the second green during the first round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament at Lancaster Country Club, Thursday, July 9, 2015 in Lancaster, Pa.

**Associated Press**

Top-ranked Inbee Park birdied two of her last three holes before play was stopped and was at 2 under through 14. Morgan Pressel and six other morning starters shot a 2-under 68.

But the best performances on the opening day were Webb, a veteran accustomed to the pressures of major championship competition, and Alex, a youngster struggling to get comfortable with swing changes.

Webb's late push helped her finish with her first round

in the 60s in a U.S. Open since 2001, when the Australian won her second straight title at the tournament. The seven-time major champ opened on the back nine and ran off 10 straight pars before making her move on the front side with birdies at the second, fourth, sixth and eighth holes on the hilly fairways and sloping greens in Lancaster. This season has been a struggle for Webb, who has three top-10 finishes in 14 starts. But on Thursday, she hit 14 fairways and 17 of 18 greens.

"It's been a test of my patience. I feel like I've had some good golf in me," Webb said.

"What's really pleasing is to play like this, because I know that I've worked really hard and the swing is starting to be a little more automatic," she said.

Alex, playing in her second U.S. Open and first since 2009, was a surprise finisher atop the leaderboard early Thursday. The 24-year-old from Wayne, New Jersey, is in her second season on the LPGA Tour and went five straight weeks without making a cut. Her best finish this year was a tie for ninth in Arkansas.

She had been working on swing changes before the tournament, and it all came together with the late birdie binge, also on the front side. □



# Deepening dependency on technology raises risk of breakdowns

By **MICHAEL LIETKE**  
**BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
**AP Technology Writers**

Technology has become so indispensable that when it breaks down, people's lives go haywire, too.

Computer outages at United Airlines, the New York Stock Exchange and The Wall Street Journal on Wednesday delivered a reminder about our growing dependence on interconnected networks to get through each day.

For the most part, technology has worked smoothly while hatching innovations and conveniences that have made our lives easier and our jobs more productive. Computers, though, could bring more frequent headaches as they link together with billions of other electronic devices and household appliances—a phenomenon that has become known as the “Internet of things.”

This technological daisy chain will increase the complexity of the systems and raise the risks of massive breakdowns, either through an inadvertent glitch or a malicious attack.

“The problem is humans can’t keep up with all the technology they have created,” said Avivah Litan, an analyst at Gartner. “It’s becoming unmanageable by the human brain. Our best hope may be that computers eventually will become smart enough to maintain themselves.”

Technology already is controlling critical systems such as airline routes, electricity grids, financial markets, military weapons, commuter trains, street traffic lights and our lines of communications.

Now, computers are taking other aspects of our lives as we depend on smartphones to wake us up in the morning before an app turns on the coffee pot in the kitchen for a caffeine fix that can be enjoyed in a the comfort of a home kept at an ideal temperature by an Internet-connected thermostat designed to learn the occupant's preferences.

Within the next few years, we may even be unlocking our doors with high-tech watches after being chauffeured home in robotic cars.

Technology's relentless march demands better security measures to prevent hackers from breaking into system and more rigid programming standards to reduce the chances of crippling outages, said Lillian Ablon, a technology researcher for the Rand Corp.

“Instead of just letting the technology rush ahead of us and then trying to catch up in terms of privacy and security, we should be baking those things into the systems from the start,” she said. “We need to be a little smarter on how we are coding things.”

The sequence of Wednesday's outages appears to have been a fluke. Sabotage isn't suspected, FBI Director James Comey said during an appearance before Congress.

But a domino effect may have contributed to The Wall Street Journal's outage. Comey believes the newspaper's website buckled after the New York Stock Exchange's problems caused alarmed investors looking for information to swamp the Journal's website.

The length of Wednesday's outages also is disconcerting, Gartner's Litan said.

It took the New York Stock Exchange more than three-and-half hours to resume trading, slowing Wall Street's usually furious pace. A “router issue” at United Airlines grounded its planes for nearly two hours, leading to 800 flight delays and 60 cancellations.

“Everyone needs to assume technology is going to go down sometimes, but you should be resilient enough to quickly recover from the outage within a half hour, if not a few minutes,” Litan said.

Wednesday's breakdowns were minor inconveniences compared with what might happen if better security



Traders work on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange in New York, Wednesday, July 8, 2015.

Associated Press

## Facebook makes it easier to tweak what you see in your feed

**BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
**AP Technology Writer**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** —

Facebook wants you to see more of what you want to see.

New tools will help you weed through the clutter of boring, unwanted information, often from long-forgotten acquaintances, and surface the gems from close friends and interesting pages.

You'll now be able to choose the friends and pages you want to see on your news feed first.

To do this, go to the friend's profile. Click on the box that says “following” and select “see first.”

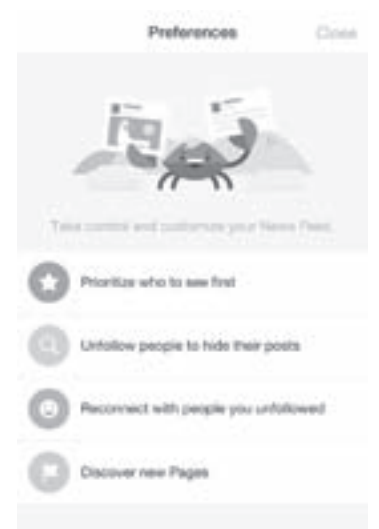
Facebook's computer software uses a wide range of information you provide to decide what to show. This includes what friends you interact with and how often, or whether you tend to like photos, videos or text updates more.

In announcing the new tools Thursday, Facebook acknowledged that its automated system isn't perfect, so it wants to give users a way to set their own preferences.

In addition to selecting who or what page you will see first, you'll still be able to “unfollow” friends

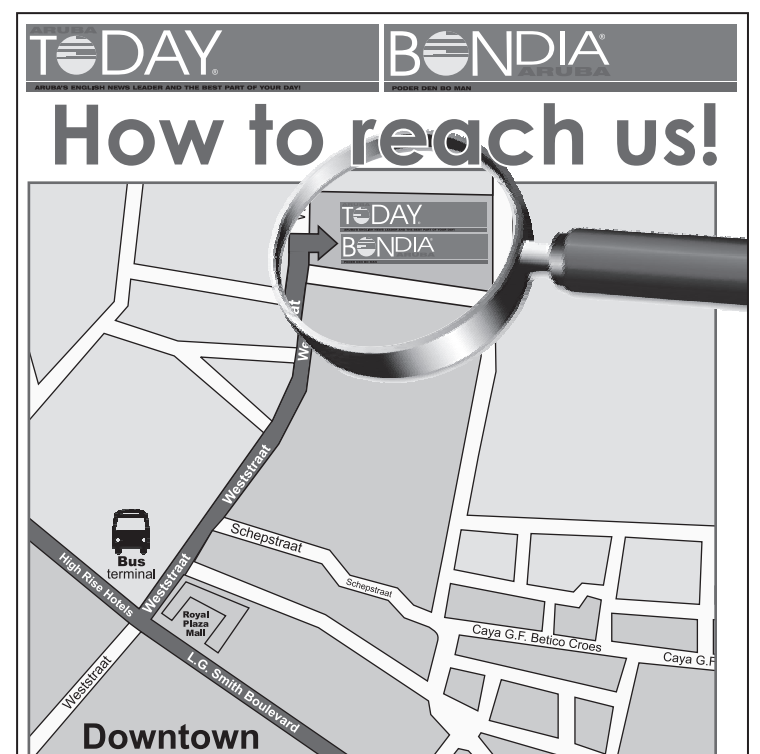
measures aren't imposed to keep out intruders bent on wreaking havoc, said Jeff Williams, chief technology officer for Contrast Security.

Too often, the technology industry's focus is on creating something cool and worrying about security later, Williams said. He said the lackadaisical attitude breeds a mindset like this: “Oh, we'll just put your blender on the Internet, there are no security issues there. And hackers figure out a way to turn on your blender in the middle of the night and set your house on fire.” □



This product image provided by Facebook shows the News Feed Preferences setting within the Facebook app for iPhone

Associated Press





# PepsiCo tops expectations, boosted by pricier products

**PURCHASE, N.Y. (AP)** — PepsiCo is using pricier products to help drive up sales. The snack and beverage maker said Thursday that revenue rose for each of its Frito-Lay North America and PepsiCo Americas Beverages units during the second quarter, despite flat volume. That doesn't necessarily mean the company simply raised prices on bags of Lay's chips and cans of Diet Pepsi. During a call to discuss its quarterly earn-

ings, PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi noted the company is using "creative revenue management tactics, coupled with innovation" to boost its financial performance. That could mean newer products that are positioned as more premium products and cost more, such as its Mountain Dew Dewshine that comes in a glass bottle. In the Frito-Lay unit, Nooyi noted that its strategy has shifted business toward "certain bag sizes" that might not result in selling

more chips but could bring in more money. Coca-Cola Co., based in Atlanta, also has recently said Wall Street analysts shouldn't focus on volume growth, because products like minicans and bottles that fetch more on a per-ounce basis could help drive sales and profit growth. That is a shift from years past, when the volume growth was seen as a key indicator of health. For the second quarter, PepsiCo said sales for Frito-Lay North America climbed 2 percent, while PepsiCo

Americas Beverages sales edged up 1 percent. When stripping out the impact of foreign currency translations, revenue for both units rose 3 percent. The company's total revenue rose 5.1 percent, when stripping out the impact of foreign currency translations, acquisitions and divestures and structural changes. When including those factors, reported revenue declined 6 percent. Cost-cutting help keep profit on par with last year. The company said it earned

\$1.98 billion, or \$1.33 per share, for the three months ending June 13. Excluding one-time items, it earned \$1.32 per share, topping the \$1.23 Wall Street expected, according to Zacks Investment Research. The company boosted its full-year profit forecast. Its shares fell \$1.02 to close at \$94.59. PepsiCo Inc. now expects full-year earnings per share to climb 8 percent, on a constant currency basis. Its prior guidance was for a 7 percent increase. □

## Wall Street ends higher on encouraging overseas news



Trader Steven Kaplan works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Thursday, July 9, 2015 in New York. Encouraging news from overseas pushed the U.S. market higher on Thursday, helping stocks recover some of the ground they lost a day earlier.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
AP Markets Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Encouraging news from overseas pushed the U.S. market higher on Thursday, helping stocks recover some of

the ground they lost a day earlier. In China, frantic efforts by authorities to stop a month-long rout in the country's stock market met with some success. The Shang-

hai Composite surged after opening sharply lower. U.S. investors have become concerned that the selloff there would start to hurt growth in the world's second-biggest economy.

In Europe, stocks soared on speculation that last-ditch talks between Greece and its creditors would produce an agreement, preventing a possible Greek debt default. Those problems, and the fear that they could hurt the global economy, have pushed down the U.S. stock market in recent weeks. "We're cautioning investors not to get too concerned," said Alec Young, an investment strategist at Oppenheimer Funds. "There's been a lot of noise recently, but when we really look into it, none of it, at this point, is leading us to a very negative view" of stocks.

Young thinks that the problems in Europe and China are not expected to do a huge amount of damage to the two economies in the long run. In the U.S., the Standard & Poor's 500 in-

dex climbed 4.63 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,051.31. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 33.20 points, or 0.2 percent, to 17,548.62. The Nasdaq composite rose 12.64 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,922.40. Stocks surged at the open, pushing the S&P 500 index nearly 30 points in early trading. Those gains faded throughout the day, in part because the early euphoria over the Chinese stock market proved short-lived, said Randy Frederick, a managing director at the Schwab Center for Financial Research. "If people aren't allowed to sell, of course (the market's) not going to go down," said Frederick. "Until you get back to the point where the market is free, there's open trading, and it's not going down, then I'd say it's stabilized." □

## Coty buying 43 beauty brands from Procter & Gamble

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Coty is buying 43 beauty brands from Procter & Gamble Co., including Miss Clair, Covergirl and Max Factor. P&G, maker of Tide laundry soap, Crest toothpaste and a multitude of other products, said Thursday that it puts the deal's value at about \$15 billion. That includes stock valued at about \$13.1 billion and \$1.9 billion in debt, but the debt could range between \$1.9 billion and \$3.9 billion. The sale is part of a long-running effort at Procter &

Gamble to shed some of its dozens of brands and focus on those where it is strongest. Last year, P&G made a deal to sell the Duracell battery brand to Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway. The plan is to pare off about 100 brands, leaving about 65 in the P&G stable. The Coty deal includes P&G's global salon professional hair care and color, retail hair color, cosmetics and fine fragrance businesses, and certain hair styling brands. Other brands included in the transaction

are Sebastian Professional, Sassoon Professional, Natural Instincts and Nice & Easy. Reports circulated last month that Coty might buy several brands from consumer products maker P&G, which announced in August that it was looking to shed many of its brands. Coty sells fragrances, cosmetics and skin and body care products under brand names including Calvin Klein, Marc Jacobs, OPI and Sally Hansen. The New York company said that the transaction will boost its

product offerings and expand its global reach, particularly in markets like Brazil and Japan. The final details of the deal structure aren't worked out yet, but P&G wants it structured as a Reverse Morris Trust, which will have the beauty business separated from P&G and merged with a Coty subsidiary. P&G shareholders would receive 52 percent of outstanding stock in the combined company, with Coty shareholders getting 48 percent. Investors sent Coty Inc.

shares down nearly 5 percent to \$30.04. P&G shares slipped 33 cents to \$80.66. Cincinnati-based P&G expects a one-time gain from the deal of about \$5 billion to \$7 billion. Coty anticipates about \$550 million in cost savings on an annual basis over the next three years and approximately \$500 million in one-time costs. The transaction is expected to close in the second half of 2016, at which point Coty anticipates raising its annual dividend to 50 cents per share. □



## Chinese stocks vs. global reality: Shares untethered to economy

**PAUL WISEMAN**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — There's economic reality. Then there's the Chinese stock market.

The two usually occupy parallel universes.

When China's economy was roaring along at double digit rates in the 2000s, Chinese stocks floundered. But starting in the summer of 2014, as evidence of an economic slowdown gathered, the Shanghai Composite index climbed nearly 150 percent.

"The stock market has never been fully aligned with the fundamentals," says Yukon Huang, senior associate at the Carnegie Asia Program in Washington.

Now the Chinese stock bubble has burst and Shanghai shares are in a free fall. They've lost about 30 percent since peaking last month. But economists don't expect the market meltdown to do much damage to the real economy.

"We don't see it as a major macroeconomic issue," Olivier Blanchard, the International Monetary Fund's research chief, told reporters Thursday.

The IMF expects the Chinese economy to grow 6.8 percent this year, unchanged from the forecast it made in April, before the market meltdown.

Prices in the stock market are supposed to reflect business realities: the health of the economy, the quality of the companies listed on stock exchanges, the comparative allure of alternative investments.

But in a communist country where the government plays an oversized role in the economy, investors pay more attention to signals coming from policymakers in Beijing than to earnings reports, management shake-ups and new product announcements.

During the booming 2000s, only politically connected firms were allowed to list on stock exchanges for the most part. Many of them were run by insiders of dubious managerial talent. The markets were dominated by inefficient state-owned companies.

Investors were especially wary of investing in big government banks believed to be sinking under the weight of bad loans. Stocks went nowhere.

The Chinese government is now trying to manage an economic transition away from an overreliance on exports and over-investment in things like real estate and factories. The old way left the country with too many vacant houses, idle factories and corporate debt. The government wants to nudge the economy toward slower but steadier growth based on spending by Chinese consumers.

Talking up the stock market became part of the plan. As China's real estate market cooled, Chinese with money to spare could invest in stocks instead. If their portfolios grew, they'd feel wealthier and more willing to spend. Chinese companies could issue shares of stock and use the proceeds to pay down debt.

So state media began encouraging Chinese to buy stock, even as the country's economic outlook dimmed. The economy grew 7.4 percent last year, the slowest pace since 1990. It's expected to decelerate further this year.

But authorities allowed investors to borrow to buy evermore shares. Unsophisticated investors — more than a third left school at the junior high level — got the message and bought enthusiastically, taking Chinese stocks to dangerous heights.

Now it's all crashing down.

Analysts say the economy is unlikely to take a big hit. The IMF's Blanchard says most Chinese investors didn't spend their paper gains as stocks rose, so they shouldn't have to curb spending now. □

## To avoid turmoil:

## Wave of Chinese firms halt stock trading

**KELVIN CHAN**

**AP Business Writer**

**HONG KONG (AP)** —

Faced with a stomach-turning slide in share prices, many Chinese companies are taking matters into their own hands with a tactic that experts say is bound to backfire: they're pressing the pause button.

About half of the 2,800 stocks on mainland Chinese markets have been suspended from trading as companies attempt to stem further losses by sitting

highlights the limits of its control over the market.

Experts said the wave of trading suspensions could have the opposite of the intended effect. Instead of stabilizing the market, they could add to the selling pressure by transferring it to other shares that remain active.

It's a naive strategy that shows "how immature the China market is," said Jackson Wong, an associate director at United Simsen Securities.

Equipments Co., which she bought for 32 yuan a share, are stopped at 12.28 yuan. Both said this week they temporarily suspending trading pending the release of "relevant information," which they have not yet disclosed.

Hong said she turned to the rest of her portfolio and dumped half of those shares at a big loss. She started playing the market after seeing many other people making quick money and chose stocks based



**Chinese stock investors check prices in a brokerage house in Wuhan in central China's Hubei province Thursday July 9, 2015. Asian stock markets remained volatile on Thursday after the Chinese government took measures aimed at stabilizing the market. (Chinatopix via AP)**

out the market upheaval. The trading halts appear to be separate from the flurry of measures rolled out by Beijing over the past week, as the country's Communist leaders made increasingly desperate attempts to stabilize tumbling markets. The Shanghai Composite Index has dived about 30 percent from its June 12 peak. The steep decline comes after a spectacular rally that sent the Shanghai index up 150 percent in the previous 12 months despite slowing growth in the world's second biggest economy.

The government fanned the rally by sending encouraging signals through state media that enticed the Chinese public to pile in to the market. But the ensuing downturn and Beijing's frantic response, which includes banning major shareholders from selling stakes for six months,

Ordinary Chinese investors have mixed feelings about the trading halts.

"I'm worried and happy at the same time," said Shanghai resident Ella Hong, who plowed 300,000 yuan (\$31,400) into six companies starting in May, just before the market turned. Trading in half of those stocks is now frozen, including two companies whose share prices have dropped by more than half.

"What I'm happy about is that they would not lose more in these next few days," said Hong. "But what I'm worried about is that I heard once the stock comes back to the market, it would drop anyway."

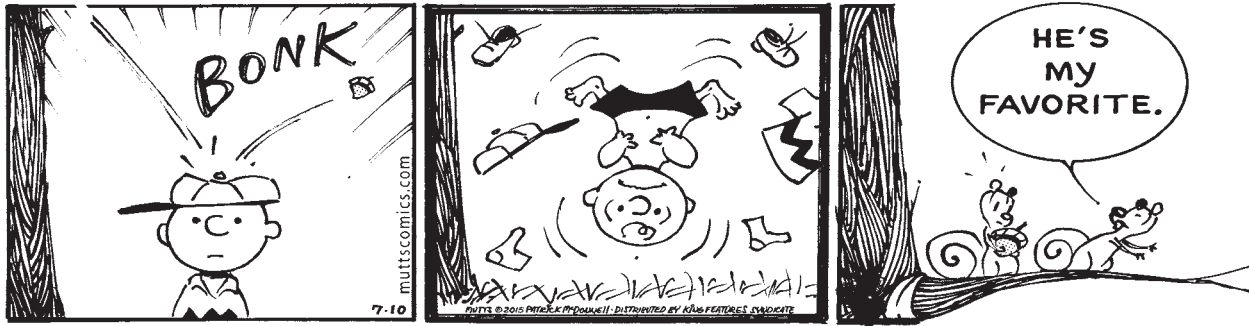
Her shares of seafood processor Shandong Oriental Ocean Sci-Tech Co. are stuck at 14.01 yuan after she bought them for 35 yuan. And her shares of hydraulic machinery maker Fujian Haiyuan Automatic

on recommendations from an astrologer and a friend with investing experience. Her experience illustrates how China's novice investors tend to be the biggest losers in the event of a market meltdown.

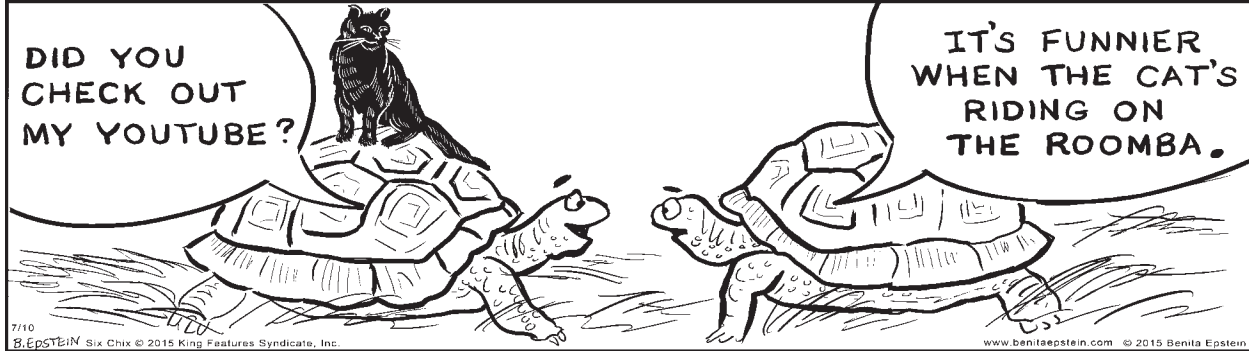
That was the case in the 2007-08 market boom and bust, in which China's stock market plunged 70 percent. The boom was a windfall for Chinese companies and big investors who sold before the peak. Small investors who piled in late suffered huge losses. Most of the companies that have suspended trading are smaller businesses listed on the Shenzhen stock exchange. These firms have been hit harder than the big state firms listed in Shanghai because they don't benefit as much from recent government support measures, such as a plan for brokerages to buy stocks. □



Mutts



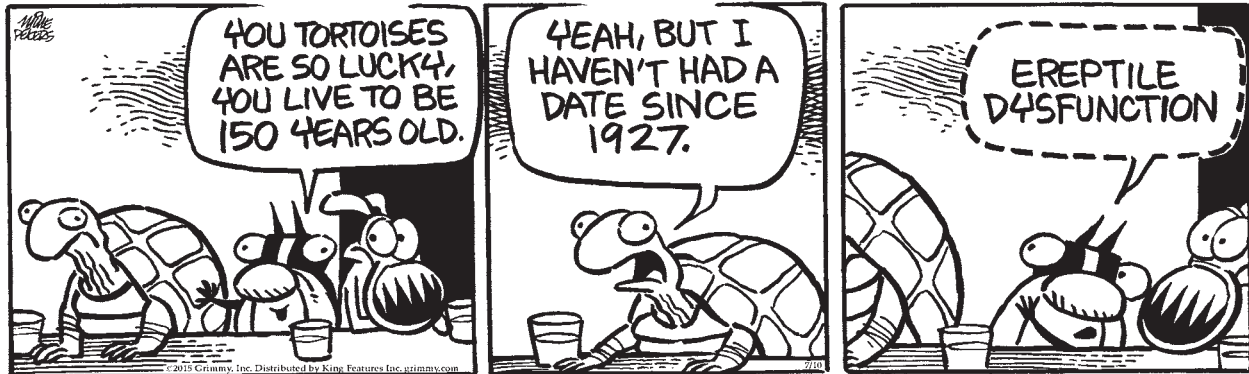
6 Chix



Blondie



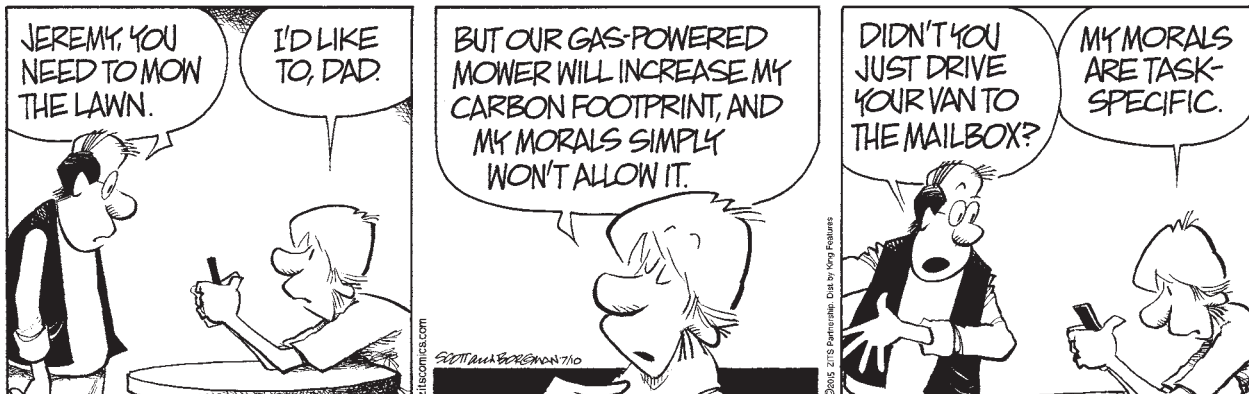
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	9			8		7	
1			7		9		6
	4			9		1	
6			1	7	3		5
	7			6		9	
5			8		6		1
	2			1		3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

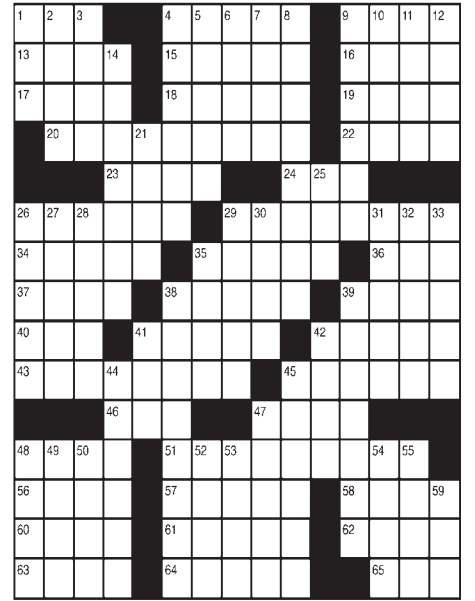
Yesterday's puzzle answer	4	1	6	2	8	3	9	5	7
	7	2	3	9	6	5	4	8	1
	5	8	9	1	4	7	3	2	6
	1	3	8	7	5	6	2	9	4
	6	4	7	8	2	9	1	3	5
	2	9	5	4	3	1	6	7	8
	8	6	1	3	7	2	5	4	9
	9	7	2	5	1	4	8	6	3
	3	5	4	6	9	8	7	1	2

ACROSS

- Tabby's foot
- McIntosh or Granny Smith
- Shade trees
- Gabor and Longoria
- Beauty shop
- Actor Wyle
- \_\_\_ up; become cheery again
- Lake fish
- Monster
- Italian staple
- Secondhand
- Scottish caps
- Dustcloth
- Spit
- Ninth grader
- Exact duplicate
- Attacks and injures
- In \_\_\_; wonderstruck
- Wedding band
- Flag maker \_\_\_ Ross
- Talon
- Biggest club
- Late entertainer \_\_\_ Shore
- \_\_\_ four; fancy eclair
- Compassionate
- Cuts of beef
- Family card game
- Not as much
- Bosc or Bartlett
- Religion teacher
- Slow period in business
- Over
- Person, place or thing
- Egg on
- Tempted
- Fence opening
- Spur into action
- Took illegally
- \_\_\_ down; insult

DOWN

- Get-up-and-go
- Pennsylvania and Fifth: abbr.
- Distort
- Lung disorder



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/10/15

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

SOFA	APART	SLAM
AXES	MACAW	TOBE
FEES	INDIA	ALLS
ENLARGE	NIBBLES	
UFO	RENAL	
STALK	FED	KEACH
LENT	LOA	NESTLE
INN	PIERCED	AAA
NOISES	MET	SLIP
GREEK	BEE	PALMS
TOTED	GAB	
OYSTERS	SORBETS	
FALL	AILED	ACHE
FREE	IDEAL	THEE
ADDS	LEERY	HONK

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7/10/15

- |                                  |                            |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 39 Stopping                      | 49 Lira replacer           |
| 41 Clamor                        | 50 Seaweed                 |
| 42 Elegant                       | 52 Border on               |
| 44 Made ringlets                 | 53 Spanish bull            |
| 45 Flow back                     | 54 Cleansing bar           |
| 47 On the ___; telling the truth | 55 Ballerina's skirt       |
| 48 Sink stopper                  | 59 Ping-Pong table divider |



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**Divi Phoenix**  
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For Sale 1 bedroom Room 502 week 32 \$5.000 O.B.O.

203549

## TIMESHARE FOR SALE/ RENT

### Divi Village

week 29, July 19 to 26, Rm 5503, all amenities sale \$2900 rent \$795 also Mill Resort week 28 July 11 start, 2 rm suite, 2 bath unit 234 B/C \$750  
email: [rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com)  
508-651-0016

203265

## TIMESHARE FOR SALE/RENT

### Casa del Mar Amb

wk 29 starts July 18 unit 1326 one br / all amenities rent \$725, buy \$2500 +mf also  
Paradise Villas one br unit 322 2 wks 26+27 starts on June 28, rent \$675 each, buy \$2600 +mf  
Phone 565-9394 or email: [rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com)  
508-651-0016

203095

## TIMESHARE FOR SALE RENAISSANCE

Week	room	price
26	507	\$ 3,500
26	543	\$ 5,300
40	105	\$ 5000
48/49	119	\$ 4,500
30/31	524	\$3.500 each
35	314	\$4,000
30	515	\$4,900
30	311	\$5,000
23	343	\$4,500
27	103	\$4,000
29	134	\$4,500
20&21	347	\$4,500
27	341	\$4,000

Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200  
vr. realty@mac.com

203548

## FOR SALE

### Paradise Beach Villas

2 bedroom week 29 Room 125 poolside \$6500 O.B.O.  
**Divi Phoenix**  
For sale 1 bedroom week 29 Room 502 \$5.000 O.B.O.  
For sale 1 bedroom week 32 Room 502 \$5.000 O.B.O.  
Contact Brian Cell: 593-0200  
vr. realty@mac.com

203549

## TIMESHARE FOR SALE by owner

3 rm, 2 br, 2 bath Divi Dutch Village unit 96, sleeps 6+ wk 26 starts on June 27 \$5995 or Bo also, wks 28, 7/11 starts Mill Resort studio rent \$625 buy \$2200  
email: [rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com)  
508-651-0016

203096

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Dr. Velasquez  
Tel. 586-0512

## EMERGENCIA 911



POLICE	100
POLICE	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
POLICE TIPLINE	11141
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	911

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San Nicolas: San Lucas Tel: 584-5119

INFORMATION	118
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

## CRUISESHIP



### July 14 Freewinds

Aruba Aiport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Surinam	582-7896
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

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Aruba  
(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

## FUNDACION

Respetami  
Tel: 582-4433

Centro Diabetic Arubano  
Tel: 524-8888

## Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

## QUOTA Club

Tel: 525-2672

## Women in Difficulties Foundation

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Bloodbank Aruba  
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Oceanfront \$14.500k  
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2B Oceanfront \$14500  
1B Oceanfront \$8500

**PLATINUM Season**  
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1B Oceanview \$11500  
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## Study: American, European bumblebees feeling climate sting

**MALCOLM RITTER**  
AP Science Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** -- Climate change is shrinking the geographic range of many bumblebee species in North America and Europe, putting them in danger of future extinction, scientists say.

In a study of 67 species, researchers found that a geographic squeeze occurred on both continents over the past 40 years: While the northern borders of each species' territory remained about the same on average, the southern borders generally moved northward.

That shift, by more than 100 miles in some cases, was most pronounced for species in the southern parts of the study areas. In North America, the study extended from the southern United States to northern Alaska.

The range loss implies that populations have declined and are on the road to disappearing, said study leader Jeremy Kerr, of the University of Ottawa in Canada. Results were released Thursday by the journal Science.

Analysis showed the changes were not due to differences in land use or the use of pesticides.

"The only explanation we've got is that it's too hot for them," Kerr said.

Bumblebees are furry-looking and wild cousins of hon-



In this Wednesday, April 15, 2015, file photo, a bumblebee approaches blooms on an almond tree in Erfurt, central Germany.

Associated Press

eybees. They play a crucial role in nature by pollinating wild plants and also some crops such as tomatoes and blueberries.

Kerr said that because the geographic ranges of species overlap, the new study does not mean that vast areas of the continents have lost bumblebees completely. Rather, it means that many areas host fewer

species than they used to. Such loss of diversity can hamper an environment's ability to cope with changes like droughts, he said in an interview.

The bee trend was surprising because other land creatures like butterflies have extended their range north while maintaining their southern boundaries, researchers said.

Kerr's study drew on museum records of bumblebees captured by naturalists and researchers over decades. It focused on about 423,000 cases where the species, location and year of capture were known. Researchers set a baseline distribution of the species found between 1901 and 1974, and looked for changes at later time periods, most recently 1999 to 2010.

May Berenbaum, who heads the entomology department of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, praised the scope of the study and said it shows bumblebees will not simply shift northward to cope with rising temperatures.

"It's not that simple," said Berenbaum, who didn't participate in the study. "They may be running out of options." □

# Honey Dolls

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## Meet the transgender women who inspired, star in "Tangerine"

**LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Donut Time doesn't look like much from the outside, but for "Tangerine" director Sean Baker, it was everything.

With bright yellow, bubble letters spelling out the humdrum name on two humdrum, sun-faded signs, the tiny, 24-hour, cash-only shop stands separately in front of a similarly unremarkable strip mall on the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Highland Avenue in the middle of Hollywood. It's the type of spot that you might not even notice in the daytime.

At night, it's a different story.

The intersection is one of the most notorious in Hollywood — a haven for sex workers, drug dealers, their clients and others on the fringe. And it's this very real store and very real types that frequent it that provide the core for one of the year's most groundbreaking and unconventional films: "Tangerine," a rowdy odyssey of two transgender sex workers searching for their pimp one Christmas Eve.

Boasting two unknown, transgender leads and shot on an iPhone 5S, "Tangerine" became an unlikely breakout at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival,

sparking a modest bidding war between various distributors. Magnolia Pictures won out and the film hits theaters on Friday.

It would have never happened had Baker not met trans women and aspiring performers Mya Taylor and Kitana Kiki Rodriguez at the

pimp and his mistress, while best friend Alexandra (Taylor) works the street and readies for a performance that evening.

It's a world that few people know about, and even fewer experience.

"This is an extremely vulnerable group of people.

Pizza Parlor, three blocks west of Donut Time.

On paper, the film couldn't sound bleaker, but the experience of watching it is something else. The film is alive with a pulsating energy and is often quite funny, even in depicting this awful day. That humor

— talkative and thoughtful even at the tail end of a long day. Rodriguez is the sparkplug. Pretty and manic, she speaks quickly and playfully, peppering her speech with benign expletives followed by coy apologies for her "naughtiness."

In the film, Rodriguez had to up her energy a bit to be this woman scorned and she looked to Angelina Jolie in "Girl, Interrupted" for inspiration.

"I want to be that kind of crazy," she said.

Together, the two still even make Baker blush with their brash and occasionally off-the-rails commentary about anything from police raids on Donut Time to Ryan Gosling.

With such color and charisma jumping off the screen, it's almost incidental that the film was shot on an iPhone — a quirky detail that had audiences buzzing at Sundance. If anything, it allowed them to be more discreet when shooting. They would occasionally continue "rolling" when real customers would come into the shop. Once, the actress playing the cashier even sold someone a doughnut.

Authenticity was always the goal.

"It teaches people the reality of what's actually going on out there," said Taylor. □



In this Wednesday, June 24, 2015 photo, singer and actor Mya Taylor, director Sean Baker and actor Kitana Kiki Rodriguez pose for a portrait in promotion of their new film "Tangerine," at the Redbury Hotel in Los Angeles. The movie releases in U.S. theaters on July 10, 2015.

Associated Press

Los Angeles LGBT Center a few years prior. It was their lives and their deep knowledge of the neighborhood that inspired and informed the film.

The plot, loosely, follows fresh-out-of-jail Sin-Dee (Rodriguez) on the hunt for her cheating boyfriend/

They are the most marginalized. They are trans women of color who are also sex workers. You can't be more alienated and isolated by society than they are," said Baker seated with his stars and muses Taylor and Rodriguez in a bright booth at Shakey's

came directly from Rodriguez and Taylor. Baker describes their banter as a standup comedy routine come to life.

Bawdy and fast-talking, the two friends are the first to point out that their characters are basically them. Taylor is the mellow one

## Cassidy Gifford hopes to prove acting chops in 'The Gallows'

**ALICIA RANCILIO**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — From Johnny Depp in "A Nightmare on Elm Street" to Jamie Lee Curtis in "Halloween," horror films have been a good way for actors to cut their teeth in Hollywood.

"The Gallows," opening Friday, features a cast of relatively unknown actors hoping to make their mark, including Cassidy Gifford, the 21-year-old daughter of TV personality Kathie Lee Gifford and former football player Frank Gifford.

Gifford says she's known since she was a young child that she wanted to perform.

"I did the 'Three Little Pigs' when I was in first grade, and I was the pig with the brick house, so I technically was the smart pig, not to toot my own horn," she joked in a recent interview.

"The Gallows" is set at a high school where a student died in a horrific accident during a school play in 1993. Twenty years later, the school tries to resurrect the production. The night before the play is to open,

a few students break in to trash the set, but find themselves trapped inside the school. The movie is presented like footage recorded by one of the students. Gifford said the film was largely improvised with the actors playing characters who share their first names. "They wouldn't tell us what we were going to shoot until the morning we got there, sometimes the night before if we were lucky, but they would give us the outline and say, 'These are the points that we want to hit,'" she said. "There were



Cassidy Gifford arrives at the LA Premiere of "The Gallows" at Hollywood High School on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

a few things that needed to be said for plot (points) that would come out later in the movie, but ultimately it kind of came down to us kind of playing off one an-

other."

Made on a small budget, Gifford said getting studio backing and a summer opening makes the film "an underdog story." □



# Country music acts quietly abandon Confederate flag

**KRISTIN M. HALL**  
**Associated Press**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —** The Confederate flag was once a familiar symbol in country music, representing the rural South and the renegade spirit of artists such as David Allan Coe and Hank Williams Jr. But the rebel banner that will be removed Friday from the grounds of the South Carolina Capitol has faded from stage and song, with many country artists quietly distancing themselves from



**In this June 14, 2015 file photo, Darius Rucker performs at the CMA Music Festival in Nashville, Tenn. Associated Press**



**In this June 9, 2013 file photo, Charlie Daniels performs at LP Field on Sunday June 9, 2013 in Nashville Tenn. Daniels wrote a column on his website addressing the controversy over the flag, saying that, "The Confederate battle flag was a sign of defiance, a sign of pride, a declaration of a geographical area that you were proud to be from. That's all it is to me and all it ever has been to me."**

**Associated Press**

the emblem that used to feature prominently in merchandise, lyrics and concerts.

"You won't find it being used by young country acts today, partly because it doesn't mean the same thing to them," said Robert K. Oermann, author and columnist for MusicRow magazine. "Partly because some of them aren't Southern and partly because if you want to appeal to a national audience, why would you do that?"

Many artists have adopted the American flag instead. Only a small number of country artists have been willing to speak on the issue in the weeks since nine black churchgoers were fatally shot at a Bible study in Charleston, South Carolina. Charlie Daniels wrote a long column on his website addressing the most recent controversy over the flag,

which he called "a sign of defiance, a sign of pride, a declaration of a geographical area that you were proud to be from."

"That's all it is to me and all it ever has been to me," Daniels wrote, explaining that he opposes racism and believes that every person deserves the same rights and advantages regardless of skin color.

"Unfortunately," Daniels said on the site, "the Confederate battle flag has been adopted by hate groups — and individuals like Dylann Roof," who is charged with murder in the church attack.

John Rich, of the duo Big and Rich, told Fox News' Sean Hannity that he agreed with calls to remove the flag from its pole outside the Statehouse in Columbia. A protest song called "Take Down Your Flag," written by singer

songwriter Peter Mulvey, has been recorded and posted online by hundreds of artists, including Ani DiFranco, bluesman Keb' Mo and actor Jeff Daniels. The banner was not commonly used until the late 1960s, when it began to be adopted by some country and rock artists who identified as outlaw musicians appealing to blue-collar fans, Oermann said.

Coe and Williams, the country group Alabama and rockers like Lynyrd Sky-

commercial and the industry sought to reach wider audiences in the suburbs and urban areas beyond the South.

Country artists take a big risk in addressing social and political issues. Just two years ago, Brad Paisley was criticized for recording a song called "Accidental Racist," with rapper LL Cool J, that sought to explore racial tensions but came across as naive and ill-advised. Diane Pecknold, an associate professor of



**In this Nov. 2, 2009 file photo, John Rich of the musical group, Big & Rich, performs at a rally for 23rd Congressional District candidate, Doug Hoffman, in Watertown, N.Y. Rich told Fox News' Sean Hannity that he agreed with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's call to remove the Confederate flag from the state capitol.**

**Associated Press**

nyrd all used the flag on stage or in merchandise or referenced the flag or the Confederacy in their lyrics. The flag continued to appear in some country acts through the 1970s and early 1980s, but it fell out of favor as the genre became more

women and gender studies at the University of Louisville who has written extensively about the history of country music, said country has a strong association with patriotism and with promoting inclusion of all races and cultures.□

## Library honoring Willie Nelson with U.S. pop music prize

**BRETT ZONGKER**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP) —** Willie Nelson will receive the national library's pop music prize this year — the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song — as the Library of Congress cited Nelson's six decades in music Thursday. Nelson will receive the prize in November when he will be feted with a concert and other honors in Washington, the library said. Nelson's songwriting includes country-music standards like "Crazy" and "Hello Walls" as well as the albums "Shotgun Willie" and "Stardust." And he's still making new music. Ear-

lier this month, Nelson's new collaboration with Merle Haggard, "Django and Jimmie," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard country album chart.

Librarian of Congress James Billington said the native Texan is a "musical explorer" who has redrawn the boundaries of country music, crossing into jazz, blues, folk, rock and Latin styles.

"A master communicator, the sincerity and universally appealing message of his lyrics place him in a category of his own while still remaining grounded in his country-music roots," Billington said in announcing the honor. "Like America



**In this Nov. 6, 2014 file photo, singer Willie Nelson performs during an "In Performance at the White House" series event, attended by President Barack Obama, part of the Joining Forces initiative, an event with musicians, members of the U.S. military, military veterans, and their families inside a tent on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington. Associated Press**

itself, he has absorbed and assimilated diverse stylistic

influences into his stories and songs. He has helped

make country music one of the most universally beloved forms of American artistic expression."

Nelson has made more than 200 recordings. In the last five years alone, he has delivered 10 new releases and published a New York Times best-selling book.

The Gershwin Prize honors an artist's lifetime achievement in music. Past recipients include Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder, Paul Simon and Paul McCartney.

In a written statement, Nelson said it was an honor to be named the next recipient of the Gershwin Prize. "I appreciate it greatly," he said.□





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